

150th Anniversary

Dalton, Massachusetts

1784—1934



The
150th Anniversary

of the
Town of Dalton
Massachusetts



1784—1934

FROM THE PRESS OF
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Preface



DALTON may justly feel proud in the celebration of its 150th Anniversary. Few towns in the United States can boast of an existence so progressive and happy. Before the Constitution of the United States was ratified, before George Washington was elected President of the United States, our fathers had banded together in a modern community life, had joined their hands and their hearts to the cause of democracy. Throughout those hectic days at the close of the eighteenth century Dalton thrived in its infancy as a town. Dalton accepted and upheld the most important institution that the New England States have given to history: the town meeting.

No kings or dictators have ever held the whip of oppression over our citizenry; no householder has ever been forced to tremble in fear at the unscrupulous methods of tyrants. Here in the quiet hills and along the banks of a pleasant river Dalton has grown from infancy in peace and brotherhood, and all men have truly walked together in the bond of intelligent citizenship.

150 years! Good times and bad. Wars have been won and lost, an industrial revolution has taken place, railroads have been built, the automobile, the electric light, and the airplane have been invented. And into all that has meant progress to our nation Dalton has sent her sons and daughters who have done their part and have brought honor and renown to their town.

It is fitting that we turn toward our fathers who are long since quietly sleeping the eternal sleep, and renew in our hearts on this 150th Anniversary the ideals of democracy and of liberty by which they so nobly lived, and that we pass on to each succeeding generation those principles which have made our town outstanding and notable across the years.

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ORIGIN AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF DALTON

The "Ashuelot Equivalent"—a grant of land that was to become the Dalton which we know today—came into being in a most unusual manner. In the year 1739, when by a decision most unjust to Massachusetts, the British Privy Council awarded to New Hampshire a strip of land bordering the lower portion of New Hampshire and Vermont, it established the disputed boundary further into Massachusetts territory by several hundred thousands of acres than either of these provinces had contended. Within this portion was a section of land—"Lower Ashuelot"—lying on the Ashuelot River in what is now the southwest corner of New Hampshire. This Lower Ashuelot had been granted by Massachusetts to Colonel Oliver Partridge and certain others, of Hatfield.

The province, to which western settlement was of first importance replaced their grant—as it did all others invalidated in the disputed strip through the action of the council—by equivalent grants among "the unappropriated lands in the county of Hampshire". Colonel Partridge and his associates—men of some influence with the provincial government—were allotted a first choice. And they chose wisely and with remarkable foresight a section lying in the lovely upland valley through which flows the Housatonic river.

The grant was made in the year 1743; and the township when it was laid out took the name, the "Ashuelot Equivalent". Within its limits—its length of 1571 rods, and its breadth of 760 yards excluded only a grant of 300 acres made previously to Andrew Stone in its northeast corner—were embraced 9,423 acres; and within this area—a portion of which has since become incorporated in the town of Hinsdale—was included some of the best water power in what has become Berkshire County. More accurate surveys have since shown this equivalent grant to have been approximately 1,614 rods in length by 1,074 rods in breadth.

The years which followed the grant of the "Ashuelot Equivalent" are to a large extent shrouded, for the records of the succeeding thirty years are but meagre. Some of the earliest deeds relative to the transference of lands are missing, and portions of others have been lost; but there is evidence that the major portion—if not all—of the grant was transferred almost immediately to Edmund Dwight. Who the granter may have been is not known, but it is suspected that Colonel Partridge was major holder of the original grant. As early, however, as 1744 Edmund Dwight is recorded as having sold to Waitstill Hastings three undivided eighths of the Equivalent. Two eighths were sold by him to Israel Williams and Oliver Partridge—the latter had evidently repented his former sale. Moreover, in 1748 Hastings sold another eighth to

Moses Graves, who two years later sold it to Israel Williams. In 1749, by the order of the General Court of the Province, the Equivalent had been divided into 88 lots of about 110 acres each which were then allotted in five divisions to each of the five proprietors.

The beginning of settlement within the Equivalent is not known with any certainty. Pittsfield, laid out as a township in 1738 had in 1743 forty settlers, and constituted the northern frontier of Hampshire County. Since there seems to be no record that Andrew Stone had either settled his grant, or exercised any of his rights, the Equivalent probably had no settlers. There is some evidence of a squatter settlement—probably of trappers—in the Equivalent as early as 1754. But the Indian massacres which occurred in August of that year halted all attempts being made to settle north of Stockbridge. It is doubtful, then, if there was any real settlement earlier than 1760; but between 1760 and 1770, a number of families settled in the Equivalent; among them Joseph Chamberlin, and Nathaniel Kellogg, and Dr. Perez Marsh who settled in the southwest part of the town near the Pittsfield boundary. Following them some eight or ten years later, William Cady, Josiah Lawrence and Abijah Parks settled in the northeastern section of the Equivalent. These settlers and others; the Merrimans, Boardmans, Greens, Gallups and Atwoods were among the first settlers of the new town. They were likewise, for the most part, among its most courageous leaders in the years of its early development.

Dr. Marsh was, from 1765 to 1781, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas for Berkshire. He was married to a sister—Sarah—of Colonel Israel Williams. Although he was a physician he did not practice medicine in town; but was known, rather, as proprietor of the Marsh Tavern which was the leading inn in town, and in which many of the town's first meetings were held. After his death in 1785, the inn was maintained by his wife, to whom frequent reference is made in town history as—the Widow Marsh.

The Chamberlin family—to this day among the well known residents of the town—has been a prominent figure from its earliest settlement. Eliphalet Chamberlin became a member of the first board of selectmen. Joseph Chamberlin was first moderator, and was later the builder and one of the founders of the "New Mill". The family sprang from three brothers, who, coming from Wales, settled first in Connecticut.

The position of the "Equivalent" during the Revolutionary War was similar to that of most towns in Massachusetts. The proprietors were for the most part loyalists, and some of them very staunch in their loyalty to the crown. The masses of people were, on the other hand, equally staunch in their

adherence to the cause of liberty. In several of the battles of Burgoyne's invasion from the north, a detachment of men from "The Equivalent" was led by Lieutenant Daniel Kellogg. After the defeat of Burgoyne, a division of his army passed through Dalton on the way to Boston. A slight dip in the slope forming a shallow ravine just over the top ridge of Day Mountain is pointed out today as the path taken by the captured Burgoyne.

The transactions of town meetings of the "Equivalent" are unknown since records were not kept. It is, however, probable that such meetings were held, for certain of the inhabitants petitioned the General Court in 1778 to be incorporated with the new town of Windsor. No action seems to have been taken in regard to the petition.

The "new plantation of the Ashuelot Equivalent" was incorporated as the Town of Dalton by an act of Legislature on the 20th of March in 1784. This was made possible largely through the efforts of Colonel Oliver Partridge and others, who, as has been previously mentioned, were possessed of a rather strong influence in the government of what was now—the State of Massachusetts.

The name of Dalton was chosen in honor of Hon. Tristram Dalton, who was at that time speaker of the House of Representatives. He later became a United States Senator from Massachusetts, but the nature of his specific relation to Dalton is unknown.

The warrant for the first town meeting was directed to Deacon William Williams who called the meeting to order on the 19th of April in 1784 in the Inn of Dr. Perez Marsh. Deacon Williams became, by vote of this first meeting, the first Town Clerk and Treasurer. Joseph Chamberlin, as was earlier mentioned, became Moderator. The first board of selectmen were Deacon William Williams, Eliphalet Chamberlin, Captain Cleveland, Solomon Story, and Nathan Webb. Deacon Williams was a member, also, of the first board of assessors. There were also two other Assessors, two Constables, five Surveyors of Ways, two Tithing men, two Fence Viewers, one Sealer of Weights and Measures, and three Wardens.

These, too, were among the votes passed:

1. Voted that swine may run at large the present year, they being yoked and ringed according to law.
2. Voted that Deacon Williams have leave to inoculate his family for small pox at lot No. 46 in this town.

Since we are indebted to Deacon Williams for much of the early history of Dalton which he has recorded accurately and at length in the records during

his office as town clerk; and since he was a prominent leader in the town; and since the family, through his father Colonel Israel Williams, was to a large degree instrumental in the founding of the town, it is of interest to mention the story of these men.

Colonel Israel Williams, one of the five proprietors of the Equivalent was born in Hatfield in 1709, and graduated from Harvard in 1727. He became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Hampshire County; and was prominent as has been seen, in the development of western Massachusetts. He had, moreover, a proprietary interest in still other townships. A trusted friend of the people, he was also a loyal servant of the British Crown. In 1774, however, when he was appointed as "Mandamus" councillor by the latter, his service to the former was forgotten; and he was taken to a schoolhouse, and there shut in and "smoked" into signing what papers the mob demanded. This he did, however, under protest, and later recommended severe measures against the revolutionists—an act which caused him to be thrown for a time into jail, and which prompted the lines by Trumbull:

"Have you made Murray look less big
Or smoked old Williams to a Whig?"

He was later banished to Pittsfield under strict surveillance.

Deacon Williams was born at Hatfield in 1734 and at the age of twenty graduated from Yale College. After studying law, he was admitted to the bar, and appointed clerk of the Hampshire County Court. In 1774, with the stirring of revolution which suspended the royal courts, he removed to the Ashuelot Equivalent where he remained until his death in 1808. He was a deacon of the Congregational Church both in Hatfield and in Dalton. Although a Tory, his quiet neutrality won him the respect of his fellow citizens. He later became a member both of the State Senate and House of Representatives. A cousin of Ephraim Williams, the founder of Williams College, he was chief administrator of his will and instrumental in carrying out the plans for its founding. He became one of its first trustees.

In none of the records is there mention made as to the location of the schoolhouses, but schooling was certainly not neglected. At the second meeting held in Dalton in 1785, £50 were voted for schools. In 1786, £60 and in a few years £100 were voted to be used in the erection of schoolhouses, but it was not stated where they should be established. In 1789, the town was divided into five wards which were designated according to the plan of the following division of Ward 1. which shall include "all the persons from the Windsor line to Jeremiah Cady, taking in William Cole, Mr. Sprague, Mr. Belloss and Josiah Lawrence."



DALTON POST OFFICE

These men and women have served as Postmasters at Dalton, Massachusetts since the establishment of a Post Office in Dalton:

The first Postmaster was John Chamberlin, Jr., who was appointed October 1, 1812 and maintained the office in his residence, which is now standing, on the north side of Main Street opposite Weston Centennial Mill and is number 799. This house was erected in 1801 and is a fine specimen of the architecture of the period, late 18th century. John Chamberlin, Jr., was born 1767 and died September 18, 1851. His tenure in office was the longest of any Postmaster in Dalton, 24 years. In 1815 he was rated among the fifty richest men in the State of Massachusetts.

The second Postmaster was Dr. Henry Ferre who was appointed June 28, 1836 and he established the Post Office in his house now standing on the north side of Main Street opposite Elm Street and is number 677. Dr. Ferre was born in Springfield, July 30, 1801 and died July 31, 1880. He was town clerk and leading physician for many years.

The third Postmaster was Franklin Weston who was appointed May 5, 1841 and he established the Post Office on the south side of Main Street oppo-

site the Clark Block in the house now number 642. Franklin Weston was born June 19, 1800 in New Bedford, Massachusetts and died February 10, 1868.

The fourth Postmaster was Thomas G. Carson who was appointed February 27, 1857 and he established the Post Office in his store which stood near where the Irving House now stands, corner of Main Street and Central Avenue. The late George W. Smith was his clerk at that time and he moved the entire Post Office equipment to the new office in a wheelbarrow. Thomas G. Carson was born July 18, 1817 and died April 3, 1903.

The fifth Postmaster was Elisha Clark who was appointed August 6, 1873 and he re-established the Post Office in the same building as was used during the Postmastership of Franklin Weston, Elisha Clark having purchased the store from Franklin Weston and his brother, Granville. Elisha Clark was born December 1811 and died July 26, 1881.

The sixth Postmaster was William B. Clark, son of Elisha Clark. He was appointed July 20, 1880 and he continued the Post Office in the store of his father. During the Postmastership of William B. Clark the postal business increased to such an extent that a clerk had to be employed in the Post Office part time. Mr. Clark enlarged the Post Office space in his store and installed much new equipment including lock boxes, which were quite an innovation for a small third class office. William B. Clark was born December 22, 1847 and died April 25, 1918.

The seventh Postmaster was William Barton who was appointed February 9, 1888. The Dalton Post Office having advanced into the Third Class during the Postmastership of William B. Clark the Postmaster became a Presidential appointee and Mr. Barton, who was a Democrat was appointed by Grover Cleveland during his first term as President. The Post Office continued in Mr. Clark's store. William Barton was born October 12, 1863 and died February 18, 1913.

The eighth Postmaster was Martin E. Stockbridge who was appointed February 9, 1892. Mr. Stockbridge moved the Post Office across Main Street to the Clark Block which originally was the Town Hall, removed by Mr. Clark from the corner of Main and North Streets to its present site, corner of Main Street and Daly Avenue. The Post Office occupied the store at eastern end of the block, now number 637 Main Street. As Mr. Stockbridge served as Postmaster at a later period, further mention of him will appear.

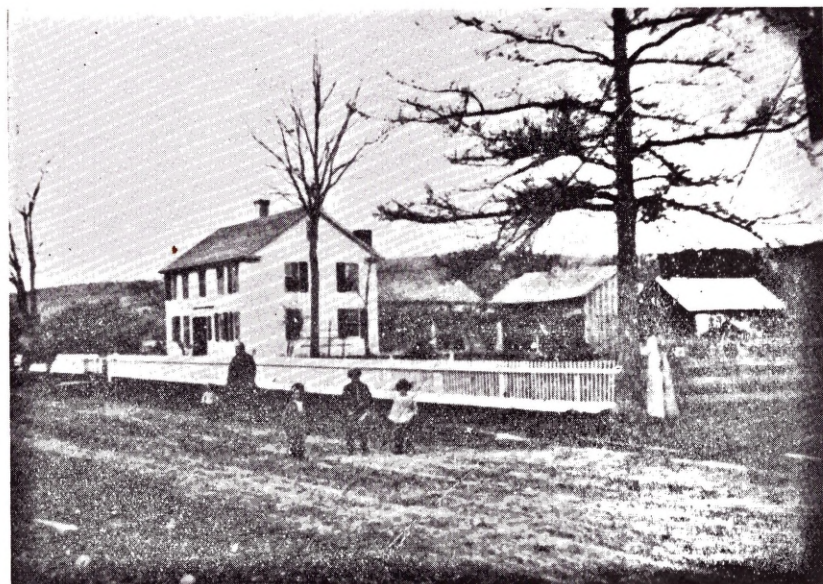
The ninth Postmaster was Ansel E. Chamberlin who was appointed March 13, 1896. Mr. Chamberlin made no change in the location of the Post Office. The income of the office was increasing so rapidly that the Postmaster-

ship had become quite a political plum and upon the second election of Grover Cleveland as President, there was the first real contest for the office of Postmaster in Dalton. There were several candidates for the office and the final selection of Mr. Chamberlin, who was not an active candidate, was one of the political surprises of that period. Ansel E. Chamberlin was born December 6, 1844 and died February 17, 1920.

The tenth Postmaster was Martin E. Stockbridge mentioned as the eighth Postmaster. The election of William McKinley caused another change in the political situation and as Mr. Stockbridge had been a successful Postmaster under a prior Republican administration, he was the logical candidate for the office. Mr. Stockbridge enlarged the Post Office quarters by taking over the adjoining store, now number 635 Main Street and with the new equipment furnished by the owner William B. Clark, former Postmaster, made the Dalton Post Office one of the best equipped third class offices in Berkshire County at that time. Martin Stockbridge was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, August 19, 1849 and died September 28, 1920.

The eleventh Postmaster was John J. Kelly who was appointed July 25, 1916. Mr. Kelly continued the Post Office in the same location as established by Mr. Stockbridge. The receipts of the Dalton office continued to grow rapidly and on July 1, 1918 the office became second class. Mr. Kelly being a very progressive Postmaster soon established Village Delivery service, which gave the residential section of the town one delivery per day. This innovation was hailed with great delight by the patrons of the office. John J. Kelly was born in South Lee, Massachusetts June 22, 1860 and died August 18, 1925.

The twelfth Postmaster was Elmer G. Pike who was appointed November 23, 1921 and died while in office. Mr. Pike was born August 10, 1871 and died May 9, 1923. Mrs. Pearl S. Glover was appointed Acting Postmaster May 22, 1923 and served until the present Postmaster Walter L. Tower was appointed January 29, 1924.



THE CLEVELAND FAMILY

The first Cleveland to come to the United States was Moses, who arrived here in 1635 and settled in Woburn where his eleven children were born. The first Cleveland to settle in Dalton was William, great-great-grandson of Moses. William, a captain in the French and Indian Wars from 1756-63, emigrated from Mansfield, Conn. in 1755. He was a farmer, miller and pioneer of Windsor; being attracted by the fine water power of the falls (now Wahconah). Here he built the first mill and started it about 1760. The two large mill stones are still there. In 1772, he deeded this property to his son, William.

William was married in Pittsfield to Sarah Tozer January 5, 1779. They came to Dalton to live and built a one room log cabin on the site of the present Cleveland Homestead which was grant land from the King of England. It is interesting to note that William and his wife came here by marked trees and cleared the land. Sometime between 1790 and 1800 a five room frame house was built where the log cabin first stood. That house is now the ell part of the present dwelling. The original fireplace and Dutch oven remain unchanged.

William's oldest son, Alvah, was married in Hinsdale to Hannah Kittredge September 15, 1804. In 1825, he built the upright part of the present house.

From that time until his death in January, 1837, he ran a tavern there. It was on the main post road from Albany to Boston and a stop for changing horses. In addition, Alvah owned two mills, one a carding mill where the wool was made into rolls for hand spinning and the other a saw mill. In connection with the saw mill, he made chairs and bedsteads and sold fancy chair material. Both mills were situated on the river back of the house. Just how many years these mills were in operation is not exactly known, but the carding mill did a good business during the years 1813 to 1818. The sawmill was still in use in 1871.

William Cleveland, son of Alvah, carried on with the farm and sawmill after his father died. All the sawing had to be done in the spring while the water was high until the Windsor Reservoir was built. William married Elizabeth Ward Mitchell in December, 1841 and they had three children, Alvah Kittredge, William Dexter and Nettie Melissa. Alvah after the death of his father ran the farm and carried on a very successful meat business. He married Amy Neate in February, 1879.

They had three daughters, Elizabeth (now Mrs. Walter Reed), Ruby (now Mrs. David Woolfe) and Charlotte. Dexter went west and was among the first settlers in Douglas, Wyoming.

Six generations of Clevelands have lived in the present house and five have been born there. The house itself remained practically unchanged from 1825 to 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reed, their three daughters and Miss Nettie Cleveland are the present occupants of the Old Homestead.



THE MARSH TAVERN

DALTON'S CHURCHES

The records of the Ashuelot Equivalent Plantation, beginning with its first settlement in about 1760, and prior to its incorporation into the town of Dalton on March 20, 1784 were not kept. Lacking them, the development of worship in those years is necessarily veiled. It may be assumed, however, that services were held in private homes. Since the latter date, records are available, and show the growth of the town to be inseparably linked with the development of the churches present today.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Owing to those circumstances, earlier described, which led to the grant of the "Ashuelot Equivalent"; and owing to the necessity, under laws of the state, to provide meeting houses, ministry, and schools; the newly incorporated town of Dalton found itself in the peculiar position of being required to establish these with no portion of land reserved for their introduction or support.

In the months following March 1784, however, necessary steps were taken and on Feb. 16, 1785 a meeting was held at the home of Captain Abijah Parks in the eastern section of the town. Here, with the aid of neighboring ministers, Dalton's First Congregational Church was organized. Twenty-five persons; seventeen men, and eight women, subscribed to the Confession of Faith and to the Covenant.

Plans were laid in the years which followed the church organization for the erection of a meeting house—which should be used likewise as a church—but until 1794 services were held in private homes; and since there was no settled pastor, provision was made yearly to "hire preaching". Although in July of 1789 overtures were made to the Rev. Winslow Paige, and in September of the same year he was offered "for his encouragement to settle in the ministry with us £100 as a settlement and £60 a year as salary and also 35 cords of wood annually"; and although it seems that he accepted the offer, yet there is no record of his having settled here, and in the following year it was voted again to "hire preaching".

The history of the "broken state" of Dalton in the attempts made to locate the meeting house contains much of interest. The unusual circumstance, noted above, of being unprovided with land on which to establish public buildings was partially remedied in 1786 through Deacon William Williams, first deacon of the church, who obtained from his father, Colonel Israel Williams and

Deacon Obediah Dickinson, both of Hatfield, a gift of two lots including 284 acres of land on South Street "for the support and maintenance of a learned Gospel ministry". This location, in the western section of the town, could not meet with the approval of all residents. Those especially, living in the "center" of the town and in Ward No. 2 which has since become part of Hinsdale objected to the erection of a church here.

No action was taken until 1788 when £150 was voted toward the building of a meeting house on the "hill near the corner of Captain Jacob Chamberlin's lot". But this was only the beginning of a long controversy, a controversy inevitable in a town which covered in length five miles. In ten days a new vote provided for a meeting house to be built on the hill north of Charles Day's home, a location near our present railroad station. This vote was rejected in turn in 1789; and for several years the vote of one meeting continued in this manner to be rescinded by the next. At one time building was begun in the first location, but ceased in 1791 before the frame had been covered or the floor laid. Finally, however, in Feb. of 1794 the report of a committee composed of non-residents was accepted; and money was voted at last to cover, and to



BOULDER MARKING SITE OF FIRST CHURCH ERECTED IN DALTON



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF 1812

build a steeple on the frame above mentioned which stood near the receiving vault in the old South Burial Ground. The place is now marked with a stone bearing a bronze plate inscribed

“Site of the First Meeting House
In Dalton 1791—1812
Congregational Church Organized 1785”

This church had twenty pews. One was used by the family of the preacher, one by the Deacons and their families, while eighteen were sold as real estate, and taxed as such. Simple and small, it was nevertheless a church home in which men could worship God in a dignified and a reverent manner.

On December 15, 1794 the first town meeting was held in this first meeting house.

And so in March of 1795 the Rev. James Thompson became pastor of Dalton's first Congregational Church. From 1799 until 1802 when the Rev. Ebenezer Jennings began his pastorate, there was once again no settled pastor.

In his thirty-two years of service,—the longest pastorate in the history of the church,—Rev. Jennings piloted it through notable changes.

The 284 acres of land belonging to the church were sold in 1807, and reinvestment made in 1810 in a parsonage on a small farm of seventy acres on East Main Street. The parsonage stands to this day as the residence at 30 Lake Street.

In the latter year, 1810, need was felt for a new meeting house, but it was not until late in 1812—once more after considerable debate—that a second meeting house was completed on the hill that is now Otis Avenue. Final decision regarding its location here was made only after a committee of non-residents had been chosen in November, 1810 “who shall make the actual measurements from every man's house in town” and who “shall determine whether the meeting house shall be placed west of the bridge or east of the bridge”. Even then the balance swung, undecided, for several months until on June 15, 1811 the final decision was made.

Until the present church was erected in 1888, meetings were held in this building—a rather beautiful structure for its time. It possessed an uncommonly level roof, and an uncommonly tall steeple; and these features were commemorated at the time of its dedication in a couplet supplied by Nathan Torrey, the “peasant bard of Hinsdale”.

“Flat roof, tall steeple,
Blind guide, ignorant people.”

The pastor—not blind, and the people—not ignorant, appreciated the humor of the rhyme which is remembered by many residents even today.

August 22, 1824 saw the organization of the Sabbath School Society of Dalton.

In the following year, because of the separation which had taken place in 1824 between the church and state, organization of a parish was necessary. The church then became The Church of Christ in Dalton; and the parish, The First Congregational Society.

The missionary spirit of the church, early evidenced, resulted in 1852 in the organization of the Ladies' Sewing Society; and in 1876 was formed the Woman's Auxiliary W. B. M. This was followed closely by the Penny Gatherers, and by the Young Ladies' Missionary Society—existent still as the King's Daughters. 1884 saw the organization of the Christian Endeavor Society.

Previous to 1881, afternoon services followed the Sunday School session, but in that year with the building of the Chapel which was east of the present stone church, this service ceased, and was replaced by evening and mid-week prayer meetings. Here were held social gatherings of the church until, in 1914, the present Sunday School replaced the smaller one built with the church.



THE PRESENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

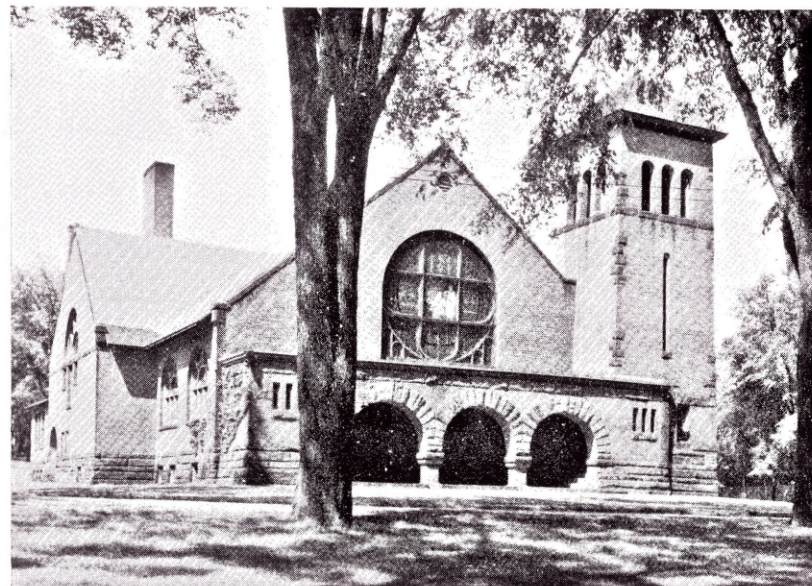
The present beautiful structure, built during 1888, was dedicated in March of 1889.

The last service in the old frame church was held on February 24, 1889. The pastor, Rev. George W. Andrews, delivered the farewell sermon "Preserving the Landmarks". The text, taken from Proverbs 22 to 28 was "Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set".

This building was moved to Housatonic Street, and there converted into a dwelling house and feed store. On October 30, 1907 it was destroyed by fire; a result, perhaps, of disobedience to the Gospel.

In 1919, under the leadership of the Rev. Ralph M. Timberlake, a Congregational Church troop of Boy Scouts—a troop destined to become the largest in the country—was organized in Dalton, becoming formally sponsored by the church, and registered as Troop 4, Dalton in December, 1921.

On November 30, 1930, the church was rededicated after the building had been redecorated, and Memorial windows presented by his family in memory of Hon. Zenas Crane.



THE METHODIST CHURCH

The southwestern part of Dalton, near the Washington and Pittsfield line, may be called the birthplace of Methodism in central and northern Berkshire. Here, in 1788 or 1789, at the home of Zebulon Herrick, the Rev. Samuel Smith, an itinerant minister on the Albany circuit, preached the first Methodist sermon ever heard in Dalton or its vicinity. This appointment was continued at the house of Mr. Herrick until the ensuing fall when the meeting place was changed to the home of Nathan Webb about a third of a mile farther west, but in Pittsfield. Meetings were continued for several years at the home of Mr. Webb. Shortly following the first sermon a class was formed which included residents of Pittsfield, Washington and Dalton. Another class was also begun in the center of Dalton where it received the valuable aid of Mr. Martin Chamberlin at whose home meetings were held in winter. Mr. Chamberlin's cider mill was renowned as the ordinary meeting place at other seasons. For admission to these latter meetings a formal ticket was required, certifying that the holder was a member, in good standing, of the church.

The year 1795 is said to be the one during which the Rev. Morris Raynor came as the first Methodist preacher to speak in the center of Dalton. At this time, meetings were being held in a small schoolhouse that stood at the west end of Center Park.

"Then the Methodists met together,
Near the center of the town,
In that old, ancient schoolhouse
That the storms had painted brown."

In May, 1804, "The Methodist Religious Society of Pittsfield, Hancock, Dalton, and Washington" was incorporated with thirty-seven members, their families and estates. The Legislature, during the same and following sessions, passed three acts supplementary to the act of incorporation and favorably to the new society.

Meetings, however, continued to be held in the old schoolhouse. The Rev. Billy Hibbard, one of the most noted men in the history of the county and of his church, preached in this schoolhouse. Rev. Billy Hibbard was known as a circuit rider. He often preached in Dalton, both before and after his appointment to the Pittsfield circuit in 1813. It is true that for one year at least he preached in Dalton every other Sunday afternoon. For these services he received \$50 which was raised by subscription.

Dalton remained a member of a large circuit until 1831 when the name "Dalton Circuit" appears. It was not until 1840, however, that Dalton was made a station of the Methodist Church.

The years during which Dalton was only a member of a large circuit saw continued growth in its society. In 1834, the society built its first church, or meetinghouse at a cost of \$1,400. The builder was Charles Marsh, but the people as a whole united in giving materials and labor. This first meetinghouse was a one-storied, wooden structure which stood on the site of the present church. It was remodeled a first time in 1850 and a second time in 1869. The first parsonage was built by subscription about 1848. For this purpose Henry Chamberlin gave the lot on the main street opposite the church. This parsonage property was sold in 1884 to Byron Weston and the present parsonage was built a little farther west that same year.

Griffin Chamberlin, in 1826, organized the first Sunday School connected with the Methodist Church. In this Sunday School, William Renne, a lad of only fourteen years, was appointed the teacher of a class whose members included W. W. Carson, who was a brother of David and Thomas Carson, and who later became mayor of Newburgh, N. Y.

The church continued in its growth so that a larger building became a necessity. Accordingly, in 1894, during the pastorate of Rev. Charles S. Robertson, the present handsome edifice was built at a cost of \$35,000. This fine structure was made possible by four generous donors: Thomas G. Carson, Byron Weston, Zenas Crane and W. Murray Crane; by the help of other interested persons in the town, and by the sacrificial subscriptions of the church members themselves. The cornerstone of the present church was laid on May 6, 1894 and the Dedictory services were held November 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1894.

The old house of worship was sold to Peter Daly who moved it to the corner of Daly Avenue and High Street where it now stands as the apartment block, numbers 90 and 92 High Street.



OLD TOWN HOUSE AND METHODIST CHURCH



ST. AGNES' CHURCH

The first Catholic services held in Pittsfield were in 1835. St. Joseph's Church was built in 1843 and continued a Mission until it became a parish in 1849. For many years the Dalton communicants were conveyed to Pittsfield by their employers every other Sunday. Many showed their earnestness in their faith by walking on special days of Devotion.

St. Patrick's of Hinsdale, an offspring of the Pittsfield Mission, was built in 1852, and began parochial life in 1868. Many of the Dalton people worshipped in Hinsdale, but owing to the rapid growth of Dalton, a Mission was built here and held services in the town hall until the framed church on Main Street was built by Father Daniel F. Cronin in 1880 while St. Agnes' was a Mission of Hinsdale. Later, in 1907, it became Father Cronin's parish church.

The Pastors of St. Agnes':

Fr. Daniel F. Cronin
Fr. John J. O'Keefe
Fr. Patrick H. Gallen

BAPTIST CHURCH

For a number of years the organization of a Baptist Church in Dalton had engaged the attention of pastors of the Berkshire Baptist Association. At the annual meeting of the Association in Adams in 1888, the importance of the field was urged upon the Secretary of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention. In January, 1890 at the suggestion of Rev. Orville



Coats of Pittsfield the field was visited by a representative of the convention and a favorable communion with those of the same faith, decided to visit the neighboring church in Pittsfield. To carry out this purpose, Mr. L. M. Stanton, a staunch Baptist, was induced to convey to Pittsfield on the first Sunday of each month those who wished to go. So on the first Sunday in September, 1890 the first stage load was carried. Rev. Orville Coats was much pleased and assured the little band that a church organization in Dalton would be realized in the near future.

At a meeting of the executive board of the convention held in Boston a few days later, they decided to send a missionary to the field on Sunday, November 2, 1890. Rev. D. B. Gunn preached the first sermon to about twenty persons at the home of John V. Burr, No. 118 Central Avenue. On Sunday, November 9, Rev. W. H. Eaton, Secretary of the Baptist State Convention preached a true gospel sermon to about twenty-two, most of whom were Baptists. His words acted as a stimulant to those present and they agreed to organize a Baptist church. In November another meeting was held at the home of Mr. Burr. The following Wednesday evening at the close of a prayer meeting a business meeting was held and Mr. John H. Smith was chairman and John V. Burr, Secretary. These two, with J. H. Nicholson, were appointed to secure a hall in which they could hold their services. A hall in the Union Block was secured for a meeting the first Sunday in December as a letter had been read at a preceding meeting stating that Rev. D. M. Cleveland would

be sent to the field and the home of Thomas S. Wilner, 498 Main Street, was selected as the place for a business meeting in two weeks.

It was at this meeting that the Baptist Church was organized under the name of the First Baptist Church of Dalton with 18 constituent members.

A Recognition service was held January 21, 1891 attended by delegates from nearly all the Baptist Churches of the county and there was received from the Secretary of State a certificate of incorporation under the laws of Massachusetts.

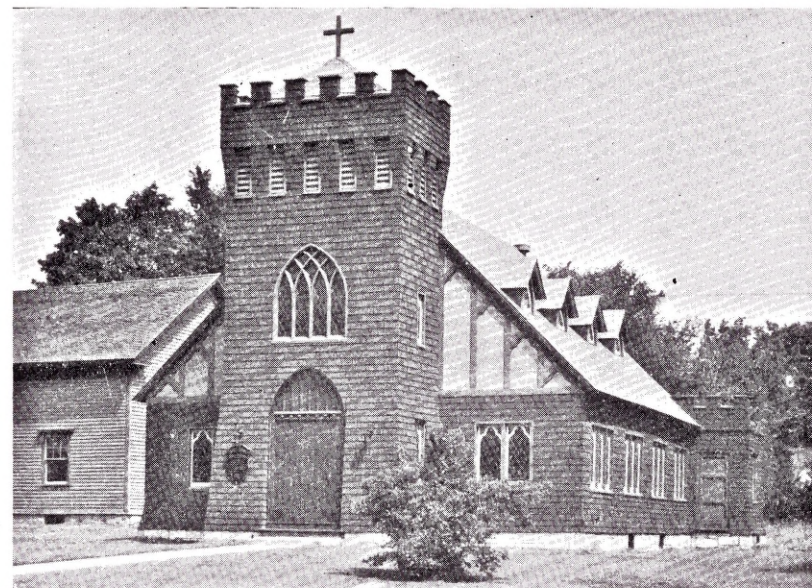
Rev. D. M. Cleveland of the State Convention preached for a short time and it was under his leadership that the Sunday School was organized with C. E. Wilmer as Superintendent. J. H. Smith and J. V. Burr were elected deacons.

On March 18, 1891, the church voted to accept a building lot generously donated by the Old Berkshire Mills Company. About this time Rev. B. McClellan came as pastor and remained until September first, during which time plans and an appropriate place for a church building were discussed. On April 23 a building committee was appointed consisting of Albert H. Stanton, Charles E. Wilner and Albert H. Foster, with Frank H. Smith as treasurer.

The pulpit was supplied from September 1 until January 1892, when the Rev. O. W. Jensen was called to the pastorate and remained till July, 1893, during which time the church was built on the east side of Carson Avenue, on what is now the corner of First Street and Carson Avenue, but this was before First Street was built. There were no houses north of it.

On the first Sunday in September, 1893, the Rev. H. E. Brady was called and was ordained by the church October 2, 1893. Under his leadership the church increased in members and made payments on notes and bills. The edifice was completed and dedicated on October 25, 1894. Rev. H. E. Brady resigned in May, 1897. On December 16, 1897, a call was extended to Rev. Jesse Coker. He accepted and began his duties January 1, 1898. During 1899 losses began by removal from town of many good workers.

On March 2, 1902 Rev. Jesse Coker closed his services. On August 10, 1902, Rev. Frank H. Pride became pastor. Again there were losses by removal from town and on May 1, 1904, Mr. Pride severed his connection with the church. For a short time there were supplies but due to the loss of members the services were discontinued in 1904 and the property turned over to the State Convention who in turn sold it to Z. & W. M. Crane, and they sold it to Arthur E. Ford, who tearing down the building, built dwelling houses. The house No. 68 Carson Avenue is built over the church foundation.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Twenty-one persons interested in organizing an Episcopal Society in Dalton signed a petition and presented it to Milton B. Warner, who then practiced law in the town. As a result of this petition, a meeting was held in the Town Hall on July 2, 1892. This meeting was called to order by Mr. Warner, Mr. George T. Wright was elected clerk, and Mr. Warner was moderator. At this first meeting the present name of Grace Church was decided upon, and adopted, and wardens, clerk, treasurer, and vestry elected. These are the names of the first officers of the parish: Senior Warden, George T. Wright; Junior Warden, Franklin Weston; Treasurer, Edwin D. Strong; vestrymen, Milton B. Warner, George Crew, Thomas Salter, and Thomas Trend.

The first meetings were held in the Town Hall, but as time advanced, need was felt for a church home. In the fall of 1892, Bishop Phillips Brooks laid the cornerstone of Grace Church, and it was first used for services on April 9, 1893.

Guild Hall was incorporated into Grace Church in 1906.



LIBRARY AND TOWN HALL

OUR PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Dalton is proud of her public buildings—of her churches; and her schools; and her two memorials, the Town Hall and Library, and Community House—for in them are embodied those ideals which have produced the fine citizenship that is so characteristic of Dalton, that has won for it the respect of its neighboring towns.

DALTON'S TOWN HALL

Nowhere has the public spirit of citizens of Dalton been directed more wisely than in the erection of its Town Hall. For it is a building which includes much more than the offices of its public men; and it provides a place for more than town meetings. Its large auditorium has been the scene of worthy entertainments, and for many years Dalton's youth have graduated from high school on its platform. The smaller structure which, on the left of its massive steeple, adds greatly to the beauty of the building houses the public library.

This town hall, a gift of members of the Crane family, filled a long-felt need in Dalton when it was dedicated for use on February 5 in 1893. The dedi-

cation is of itself worthy of comment, for its exercises included none but Dalton's own residents—a worthy tribute indeed to Dalton. The dedicatory address, delivered by the late Rev. George W. Andrews, then pastor of the Congregational Church, contained these fitting words:

"Let us not lose sight of the real excellence of this building. It does not lie entirely in its beauty. It has an excellence beyond this. It stands as a gift of American citizens—of men who have been trained in American institutions and who have lived and do live American lives. It is therefore, a patriotic gift. We and our children may view it with pride as a memorial of honest industry, prudent business, and good will to man."

DALTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dalton's first library, called "The Social Library", was, according to old town records, formed in 1852 by some of the leading citizens. It was wholly voluntary and the books were probably placed in a private house.

The second library in Dalton was started by the Rev. Edson L. Clark. Feeling the urgent need of a public library in the town of Dalton, Rev. Mr. Clark, pastor of the Congregational Church, called a public meeting in October 1860, and as a result a Library Association was formed with an annual membership fee of 50 cents. Dr. Henry Ferre was chosen president, and Mr. W. H. Wharfield treasurer and secretary. It was voted to have lecturers come to Dalton and the proceeds from admission charges given to the Library Association. In this way \$23.00 was realized. Rev. Mr. Clark bought 47 second hand books with \$18.00 of this when on a visit to New York. There was no library room nor book case to put them in, so he spread them on his study floor at the parsonage on East Main St. where for several months, members of the association came every Saturday afternoon to exchange their books. Mr. Thomas Carson gave the Library Association \$100.00 and the town voted to give them another hundred, so by the end of their first year there were 300 volumes. These were put in a book case and placed in the Selectmen's Room under the first town hall, which at that time stood on the vacant lot west of the present Methodist church. The book case stood on a bench in the back part of the room, and the only way the crowd of people who came for the books could be accommodated was to spread the volumes on the benches where each one could select for himself. Some books failed to be checked out under this system, but when, after three years, the books were called in so that a catalog could be printed, they were said to all have come back and were in usable condition.

Soon the Library Association was invited to use Carson hall in the district school house which the Carsons built. It is the building No. 409 on the north side of Main St. east of Union Block. From there, in 1872 it was moved to the new town hall building. This was on the same site as the old one. Upon the lower floor a beautiful room was fitted up for meetings of any kind and also for a library room. About 800 books were in the library at that time.

After Rev. Mr. Clark left Dalton, in 1867, there was no one to oversee and do the necessary work of the library. In 1885, however, Lieut. Gov. Byron Weston suggested that the town take possession of the much dwindled collection, and, at the annual town meeting in March, 1885, it was taken over by the town and became the Dalton Free Public Library.

From then on the library grew and flourished. Among the men and women who had it in charge at various times were: Rev. Edson L. Clark, Homer Bicknell, James B. Lawrence, William Dermode, Mrs. Wallace Strong and Mrs. Minnie E. Davison. And of more recent date the librarians have been: Mrs. Caroline Flickenger, Mrs. Hazel Hulland, and Miss Elinor Baber; acting librarians, Miss Edith Adams, Miss Gladys C. Greene and Miss Marjorie H. Martin.

In 1882, Zenas Crane & Bro. built a library and reading room for the use of people in the south section of the town. This was used as a library for 11 years, until 1893. It was situated on what is now known as Library Square on the road leading to the Bay State Mill and the librarian was Thomas Trend. It is now a dwelling house on Sugar Hill.

In 1892, the present Town Hall and Public Library Building was built by James B. Crane, Zenas Crane and W. Murray Crane. It was dedicated in 1893. The two collections of books in the town hall and Craneville libraries were placed in the beautiful and permanent home which houses the books today. In 1915, funds were donated by the Crane family and the interior of the library rearranged to comply with modern standards of efficiency.

In this year, 1934, there are over 18,000 books in the Public Library and over 67,000 books and magazines were circulated in the past year. As the Rev. Edson Clark said regarding the early growth of the Library in his valuable record on the history of Dalton Public Library, "It is a far cry from the smallest of all mustard seeds, the little row of forty-seven books upon my study floor."



DISTRICT SCHOOL No. 1, BUILT IN 1869

CENTER SCHOOL

The first schoolhouse in District No. 1 was on the west end of what is now Center Park. It was used for a schoolhouse until 1861, when the first town hall was built on the vacant lot west of the Methodist church. It had two schoolrooms on the first floor for the grades and the second floor was used for a town hall and high school. As the demand for better school facilities increased, another two room school building was built in 1869 on the east side of what is now Center Park and used for school purposes until the present brick center school building was built in 1893. The old school building is now the Guild Hall.



CRANEVILLE SCHOOL, BUILT IN 1867

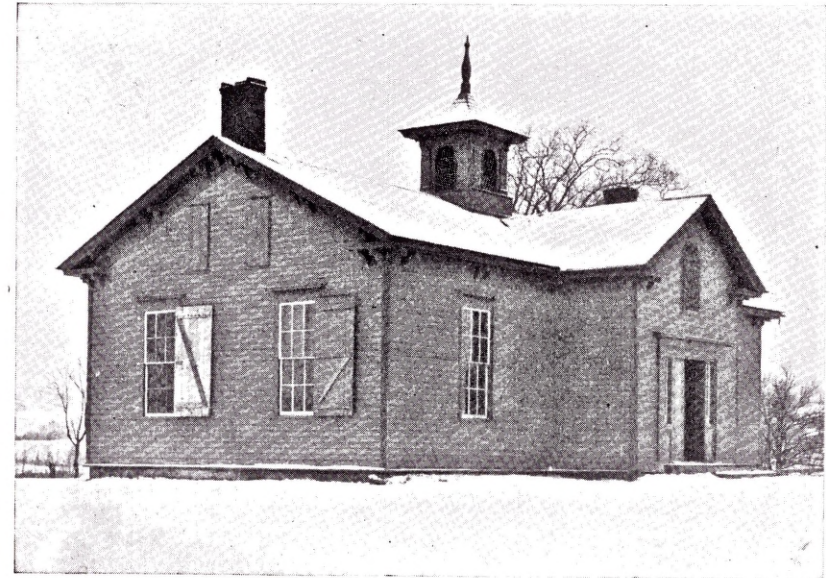
CRANEVILLE SCHOOL

District No. 2, or Craneville, had its red schoolhouse near the present driveway of Mr. Frederick G. Crane's residence.

This building was not only used for school purposes but also for social gatherings and prayer meetings, the neighbors bringing tallow candles for lights.

This building was replaced in 1867 by a two room schoolhouse on the same lot where the present one is located. The second school building was moved away and is now the dwelling house at No. 104 and 106 John Street.

The present brick building was erected in 1895.



EAST STREET PRIMARY—1863

EAST STREET SCHOOL

The first schoolhouse in what was known as the Marsh district or District No. 3 and later known as East Street was near what is now house No. 50. This was one of the first schoolhouses built in town.

Sarah Otis, mother of Clara and Sarah Lawrence, who was born in 1823, went to school here. The second red schoolhouse was built on the southwest corner of what is now land of the Wahconah Country Club, and was used for many years being replaced in 1868 by the present East Street school building.



BARTONVILLE SCHOOL, 1867

BARTONVILLE SCHOOL

In 1789, Abraham Porter was elected by the town as school committee in this district then called Ward 2, later referred to as "Porter's", then District No. 4 and at the present time as Bartonville.

One reference is made to a school building near what is now the Grange Hall. This must have been one of the first, if so, the second was located near the last building used only nearer the road. The third building was built on the present lot in 1867 and used until it burned in 1912.



DISTRICT NO. 5 SCHOOL—1866

NORTH STREET SCHOOL

Dalton at an early date had its "little red schoolhouses" of board benches and desks where the youths of the day started their first knowledge out of the "old green speller" and learned "in Adam's fall, we sinned all", and later the rule of the three "R's". There was one such schoolhouse on the east side of Mt. Weston just over the line in Windsor on the old road leading from Windsor to Dalton and Cheshire. This was known as the "Flintstone" District No. 7. There was at one time quite a settlement here, but in 1865 the population had decreased to seventeen adults and only one child between the age of five and fifteen. This district was closed and all pupils came to District No. 5 or the North Street School.

The first school building in District No. 5 was on the same lot as the one which was used in recent years. This building was replaced in 1866 by another building which was used until 1924 when the school was closed and the pupils were carried to the Center School. The building was sold in 1931 and made into a dwelling house.



DISTRICT NO. 6 SCHOOL—1870

SOUTH STREET SCHOOL

In Ward No. 4 or District No. 6 later known as South Street, the location of the first schoolhouse is undetermined but reference has been found to one located near the present school building which was built in 1870 and is used at the present time.

CARSONVILLE SCHOOL

Carsonville or District No. 8 was not in the list of early Wards or Districts in the first years of the incorporation of the town. The school was held in Carson Hall, not a public building but one that was used for a school and hall. The first floor was used for a school and the second floor for public entertainments and a library. It was the main part of the house now standing at the east end of Union Block. The two ells have been added since it was used for a school. In the fall of 1867 the last school was held in this district, since the town had voted to discontinue here and to unite it with District No. 2. Its last teacher was Miss Ida N. Warren.



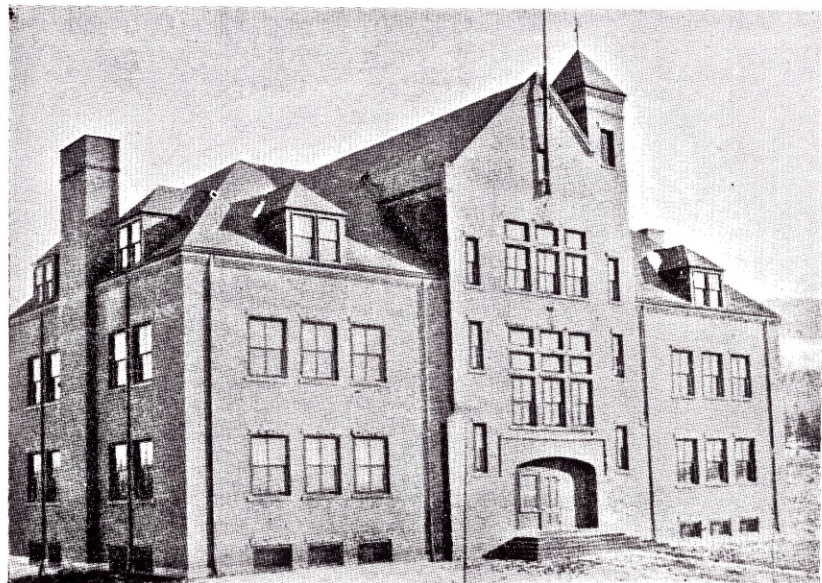
OLD HIGH SCHOOL AND TOWN HALL OF 1872

HIGH SCHOOL, DALY AVENUE

About 1880 a new grammar and high school building was built at the end of a lane which is now a part of Daly Avenue.

This lane had a ditch on either side usually filled with water. There were no other buildings on Daly Avenue or Glennon Avenue. On the north side of the lot was a tight board fence with a hole in it. This opened into our athletic field for both schools. This field was an open swamp pasture covered with scrub brush. Where the present high school now stands there was a brook in which the scholars used to catch frogs and look for fish. Many persons in town have pleasant recollections of this school when Mr. Little was the teacher.

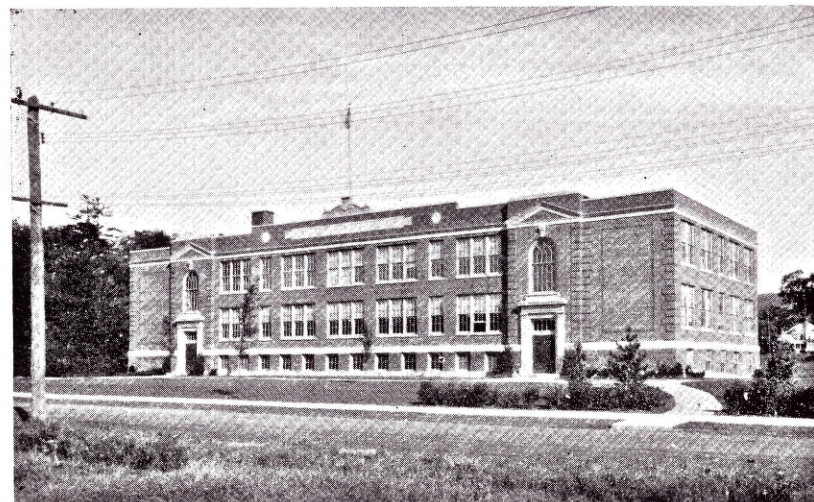
This building was given up for school use and sold to the F. M. T. A. in 1891 who sold it to the Sawyer Regan Co. in 1916, and it is now Nos. 40 and 42 Daly Avenue.



DALTON HIGH SCHOOL, CARSON AVENUE

Another high school building was erected on Carson Avenue in 1890. It was a brick and stone structure in keeping with Victorian school architecture. It furnished adequate facilities for secondary education in this town for over thirty years, but the post-war period brought great increases in high school enrollment, so that after 1920 the need for a new building became pressing.

In 1926, the new building was completed and the Carson Avenue building was abandoned. The interior of this old building was destroyed by fire July 3, 1932 and the materials salvaged were sold. Thus one of Dalton's most famous institutions disappeared. It was at the old Carson Avenue building that the world-renowned Dalton Laboratory Plan received its start as a practical working plan of education. Visitors from many parts of the world came to the Carson Avenue building to witness the Dalton Laboratory Plan in actual operation. Today, wherever educators gather in any part of the world the Dalton Laboratory Plan is well-known. Many studies, books, and articles have been compiled upon the subject of the Dalton Laboratory Plan. Dalton High School holds an enviable position in the history of education not only in America but abroad.



THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

What is now known as the new High School Building was ready for occupancy at the opening of the school year in September, 1926. To tell in detail the story of this building from its inception to its completion would require much more space than could consistently be allotted in a brief history of the town for this 150th anniversary of its incorporation.

The old high school building on Carson Avenue had become inadequate for a continuously increasing school enrollment for a good number of years prior to 1926. While the population of the town had increased only slightly for several decades, for some reason the young people remained in the upper grades and entered the high school in increasing numbers, thus resulting in a great increase in the enrollment of students in the high school, and thereby making it absolutely necessary to find rooms outside to accommodate the classes.

After weeks of deliberation by several committees it was finally decided to build a new building on First Street that would accommodate from 350 to 400 pupils, and that could be enlarged by wings that would meet the needs of a much larger school population if the future should make this necessary.

What is now the New High School Building on First Street was approved by the voters in their annual town meeting of 1924 without a dissenting vote, thus proving the great liberality of this town towards its schools.

DALTON WATER WORKS AND FIRE DISTRICT

The growth of the town of Dalton during the ten years prior to 1883 was very rapid. At this time it became apparent that the water supply then existing was inadequate. Wells, not altogether dry steadily became lower during the summer time and the cisterns, which could not be kept filled, contained water that ran from the roofs of the houses. Such a supply was therefore unfit for the drinking purposes for which it had to be used. The rapid increase in the number of dwellings and mills likewise demanded suitable facilities for fire protection.

Such conditions prompted Lieut. Gov. Weston and other leading citizens to examine the sources of the various brooks. A decision was finally made that the Egypt and Cleveland Brooks were best fitted to yield a permanent water supply. In the end, after a chemical analysis had shown that the water in Egypt Brook was the purer, this stream was selected for the purpose.

At a town meeting in 1884, a resolve was made to organize a fire district. On April 7, 1884, a charter was granted by the Legislature; and on the 21st of the same month the town voted its acceptance.

The construction of the water works was begun in the spring of 1884, and in the fall of the same year, water was introduced into the mains. The reservoir built is two miles north of the village and is 255 feet higher than the bridge across the Housatonic river at Dalton Center.

The first main laid from this main supply reservoir, was a fourteen-inch pipe. In 1905, when it was found that the water supply was again insufficient, a reservoir was built on the Anthony Brook. This was used for storage and was connected with the main supply reservoir. A second water main of twelve inches was then laid from the main supply reservoir to the center of the town.

In 1919, water from the Cady Brook in Hinsdale was connected with the main reservoir by a ten-inch pipe laid through the newly constructed Windsor reservoir. Though the water from Cady Brook is used regularly, that in the Windsor reservoir is held in storage in the event of drought.

Dalton's water; fresh, and sparkling, and pure—water of which

“Thousands of people you'll find today”

are rightfully proud has been commemorated in a poem by James D. Smith.

THE DALTON WATER WORKS

Far on the Dalton mountain tops,
Among the ragged clefts of rocks,
Around the knolls and shady nooks,
You'll find the famous Egypt brook;

You follow down its rocky bed,
Where cliffs of rocks hang o'er your head,
There its sparkling waters can be seen
Rolling down the dark ravine;

It rolls and tumbles down the hill—
No stagnant pools—its never still,
It seems to almost leap with joy,
Until it finds the reservoir;

Thence pipes are laid with greatest care,
To take the water here and there,
To mansions great and cabins small,
It now is ready for them all;

'Tis always clear, and cool, and nice,
Worth ten times the value of its price,
To use, to wash, to drink, or cook,
With water from the Egypt brook;

You need not watch your cup or pails,
For fear of lizards, snakes or snails,
Or even stop to take a look
When you drink the water from Egypt brook;

No more you will see them with their pails,
Crossing the lots in storm and gales,
And bending o'er the river brink,
To get water to wash, to cook, or drink.

And when the northeast winds will blow,
With rain, and hail, and drifting snow,
And cattle low, and horses neigh,
You will prize the water on that day.

And when you are ever so disposed,
To wash your carriages, put on hose,
And clean your wagons, carts and sleighs,
And use in many other ways.

You can water your gardens so complete,
And put the dust down in the street
And give your yards so fresh a look,
All with the water from the Egypt brook.

And when the weather is hot and dry,
You can throw the water to the sky,
And cool the air at any hour,
Just like a regular thunder shower.

And if you ever should require
This water to use in case of fire,
Then practice well and soon you'll learn,
To never let your buildings burn.

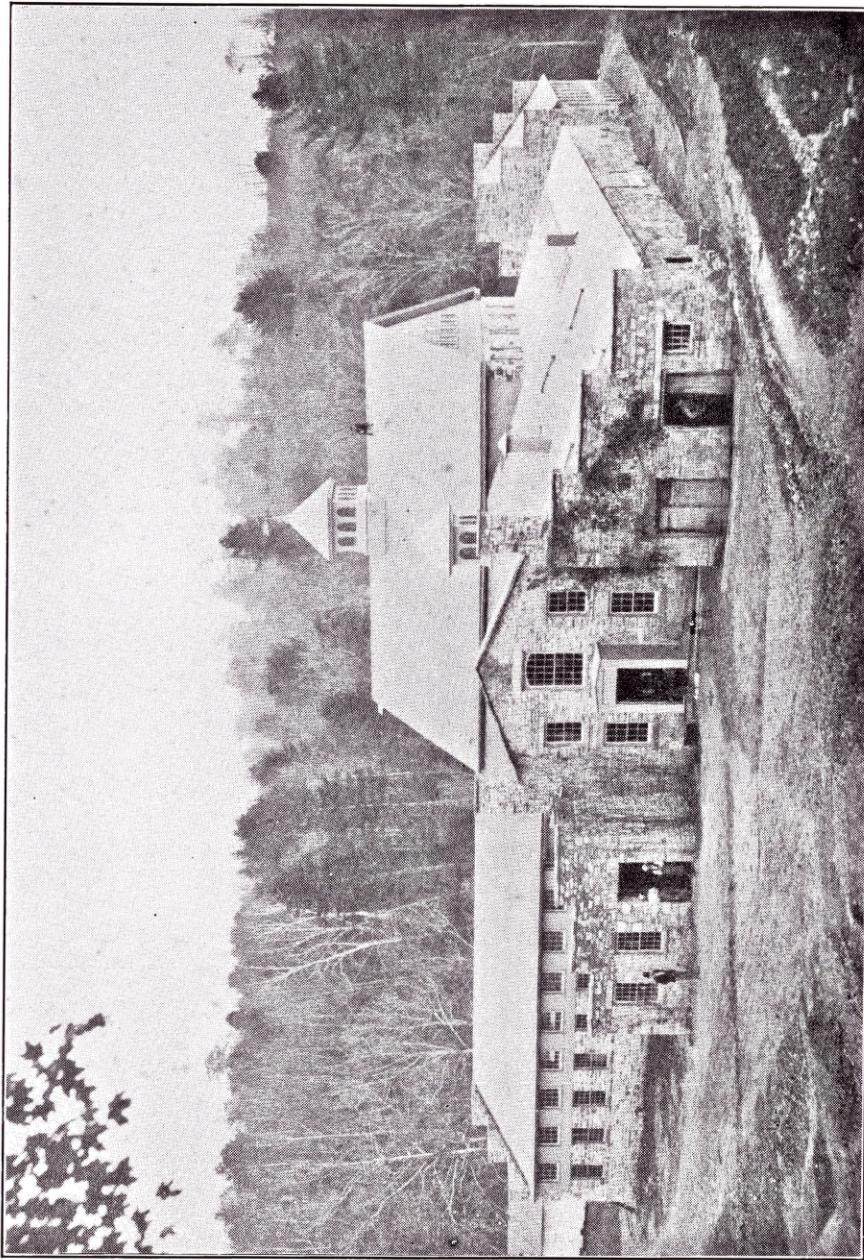
Thousands of people you'll find today
That honor those men that thought 'twould pay,
When they think of what labor and pains they took
To get the water from the Egypt Brook.

James D. Smith.

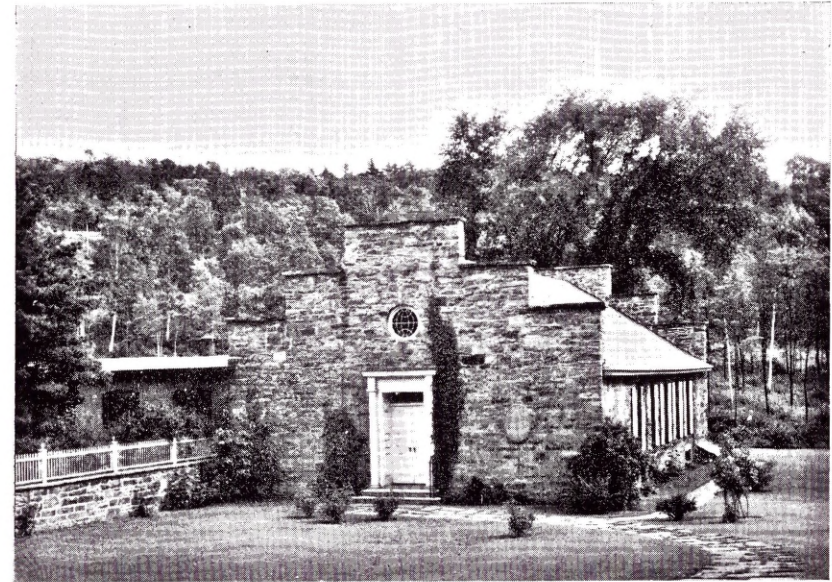


ZENAS CRANE, 1ST

Pioneer Paper Maker of Western Massachusetts, was born in Milton, Mass., in 1777 and died in Dalton, 1845. He came to Dalton 1801. In 1809 he married Lucinda Brewer of Wilbraham, Massachusetts. To them were born nine children, four dying in infancy. From the remaining, one daughter and four sons, there are now living in 1934, of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th generations, sixty-three (63) descendants of Zenas Crane, 1st.



EARLY CRANE MILL



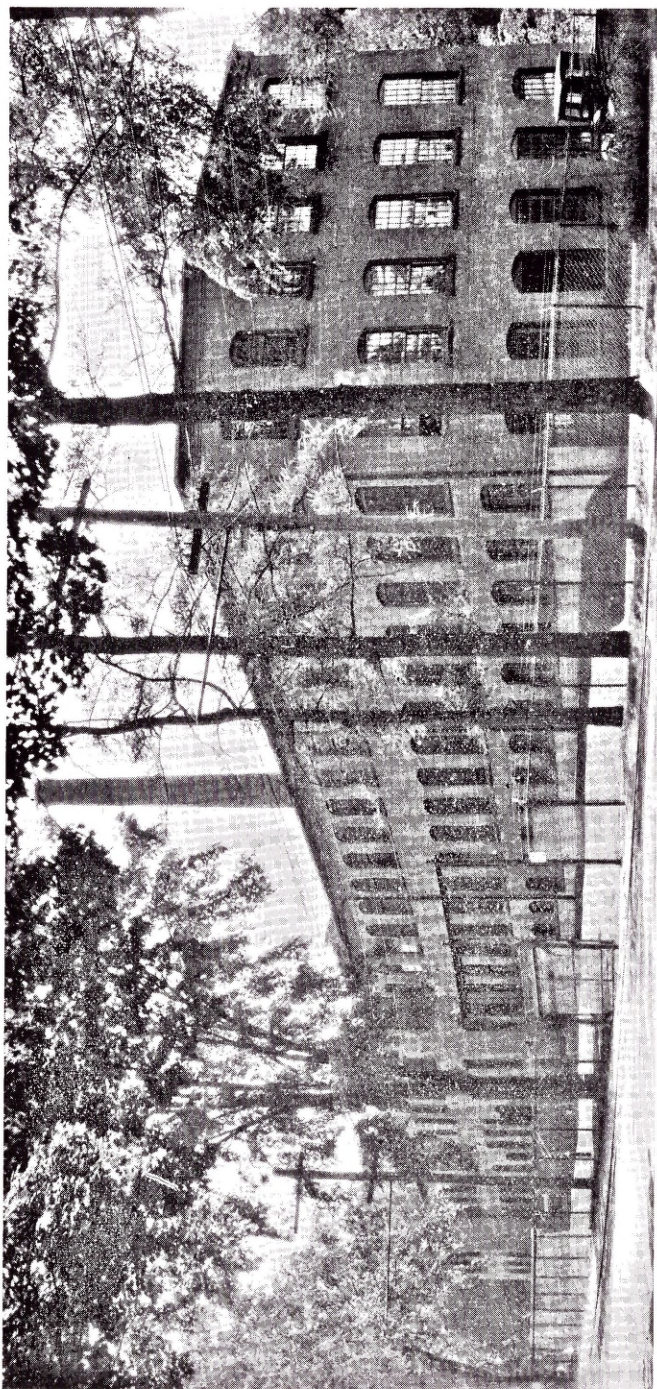
CRANE MUSEUM

THE RISE OF THE PAPER INDUSTRY

THE CRANE FAMILY

Pioneering, in any field of endeavor, has ever demanded vision, courage, and a firmness of will power which grows and becomes stronger under hardship and adversity. And each century has produced and will continue to produce, men and women in whom the spirit of adventure is a vital force, the restless activity of which is satisfied only by struggle for achievement in a new enterprise.

The first paper mill in Massachusetts was built in 1730 at Milton. In the adjoining town of Canton, Norfolk County, there was born in 1777, one who was destined, twenty-two years later, to carry the paper industry into western Massachusetts. As a youth, Zenas Crane learned the principles of paper making in a mill owned by his older brother, Stephen Crane, Jr. The latter, after a training period in the Milton mill, established his own business at Newton, Massachusetts. Thither, young Zenas went for his first instruction in what was to become his life work. From the Newton mill, Zenas Crane went to



THE GOVERNMENT MILL WHERE PAPER IS MADE FOR UNITED STATES CURRENCY

Worcester and there completed his business education in the mill of General Burbank, an inflexible but very capable master.

His training did not leave Zenas Crane ignorant of the conditions necessary for a successful venture in paper making at the beginning of the nineteenth century. In 1800, a location for a paper mill was suitable only when it could afford the following definite requirements:—a sufficient and easily harnessed water power, an abundant supply of the purest kind of water, a favorable source of raw material and a home market for a considerable portion of the output of the mill. With definite convictions regarding the difficulties to be met with in his quest for a favorable site, Zenas Crane left Worcester in 1799.

Taking a westerly course, he rode, on horseback, to Springfield, and thence onward across the mountains until he reached Dalton, which then boasted 950 inhabitants. Here, in the summer of 1799, Zenas Crane selected a location for the first paper mill in Massachusetts west of the Connecticut River. On this very site, there stands today the "Old Berkshire Mill", built in 1872 to replace the original one which was destroyed by fire in December of that same year.

The mill for which the site was selected in 1799 was not built until 1801, at which time the Pittsfield Sun published the following instructive advertisement:

"Americans!

"Encourage your own Manufactories, and they will Improve.

"Ladies, save your RAGS

"As the subscribers have it in contemplation to erect a PAPER MILL in Dalton, the ensuing spring; and the business being very beneficial to the community at large, they flatter themselves that they shall meet with due encouragement. And that every woman, who has the good of her country and the interests of her own family at heart, will patronize them by saving her rags, and sending them to their Manufactory, or to the nearest Storekeeper, for which the Subscribers will give a generous Price.

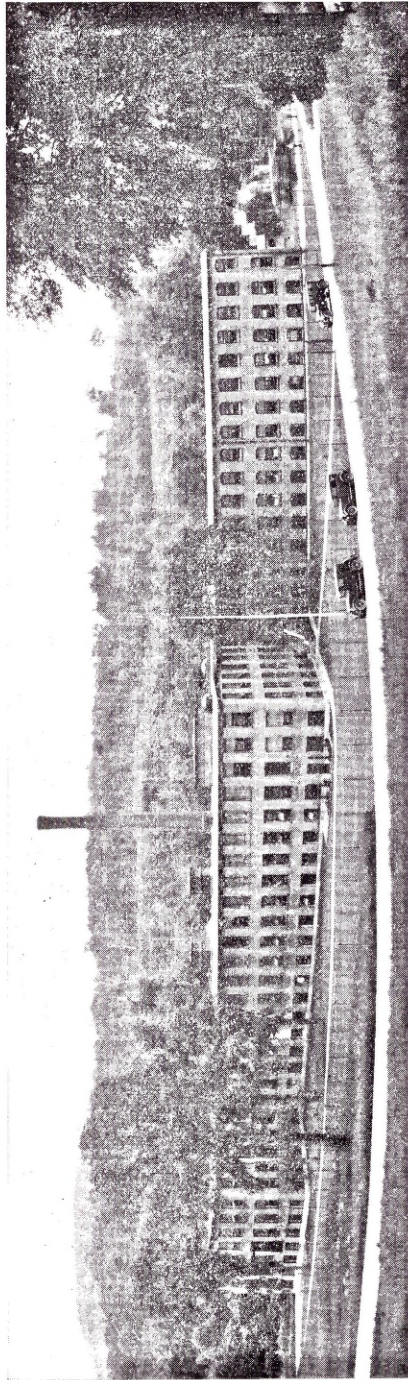
"Henry Wiswell,

"Zenas Crane,

"John Willard.

"Worcester, Feb. 8th, 1801."

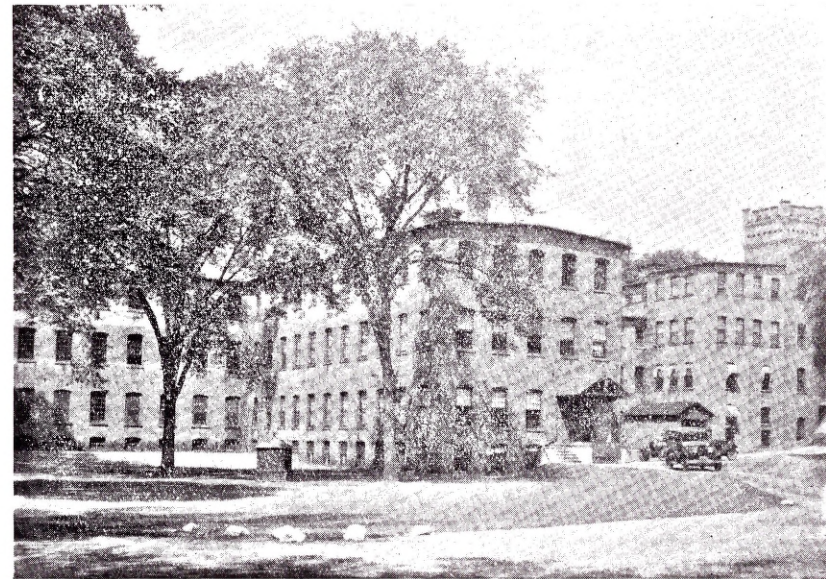
The site selected belonged to Martin Chamberlin, who so much doubted the serious intentions of the projectors that he gave the deed conveying "fourteen acres one hundred and forty-nine rods of land, together with a paper mill and appendages thereon standing, for the consideration of \$194," only after the mill had actually been constructed.



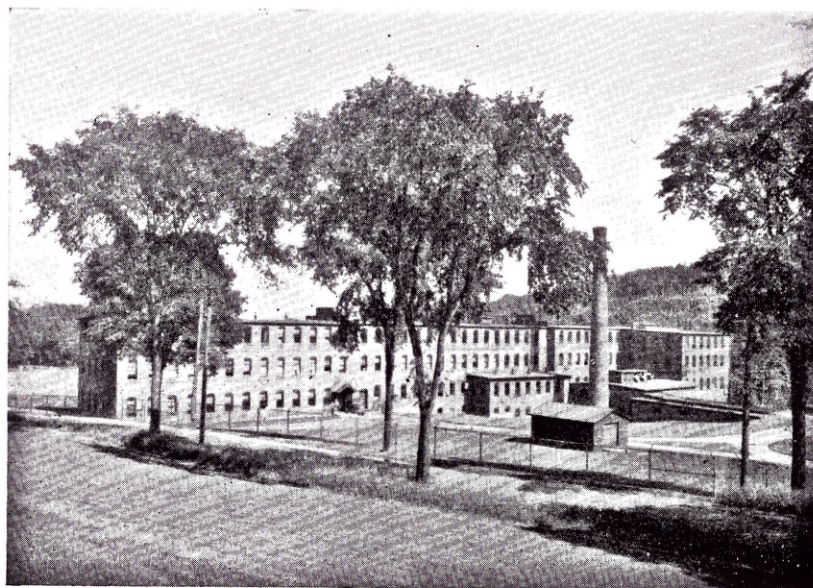
THE PIONEER MILL

Zenas Crane carried on the business of this mill until 1807, when he sold his undivided third share to his partner, Henry Wiswell. From 1807 until 1810, Mr. Crane interested himself in mercantile business at the eastern end of the town. During this time, he married, in November 1809, Miss Lucinda Brewer of Wilbraham.

In 1810, however, Zenas Crane bought David Carson's interest in what later became famous as "The Old Red Mill." At this time he became superintendent and chief manager and then in 1822, he became sole owner of "The Old Red Mill". He successfully carried on his mill and his business in general until 1842 when he transferred his interests to his two eldest sons, Zenas Marshall and James Brewer. In 1845, at the age of sixty-eight, Zenas Crane, the pioneer died. His ideals of service have been faithfully maintained in the generations which have followed him. When Zenas Marshall Crane died in 1877 and James Brewer Crane, in 1891, the guidance of the paper industry passed to Zenas, Jr., Winthrop Murray, sons of Zenas Marshall, and to Frederick Goodrich, son of James Brewer Crane, and subsequently to their sons, who represent the fourth generation from Zenas Crane, who prepared the way.



THE BAY STATE MILL



THE OLD BERKSHIRE MILL

DAVID CARSON

David Carson, one of the founders of the second paper mill in Dalton—"The New Mill"—and a chief figure in the development of the "Old Berkshire Mill" was born in Albany in 1783. He was of Scotch descent, as was also his wife, Margaret Greene of Dalton whom he married in 1810. It is a matter of interest that she was a near relative of General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary fame.

Mr. Carson learned the art of paper making at the mill of Hector Craig in Goshen, New York. In 1804, at the age of twenty-one, he went to Worcester, Massachusetts to practice there as a journeyman. Coming to Dalton in August, 1809 he worked in the old mill; and in the fall of the same year, he began his duties as the chief manager of "The New Mill" built by Joseph Chamberlin. Joseph Chamberlin, David Carson and Henry Wiswell bought from Martin Chamberlin the land on which it was situated, but continued to run it only until April 6, 1810 when David Carson sold his interest to Zenas Crane.

In October 1812, however, he bought Daniel Gilbert's third part in the first Dalton paper mill—"The Old Berkshire"—and in 1816 became the sole owner of this first of Dalton's paper mills. This mill remained in the possession of himself and of his sons, Thomas G. and William W. until 1867 when it was sold to Charles O. Brown, George T. Plunkett and Lewis J. Powers. A few years brought many changes in its ownership—Thomas G. Carson and his son, John D. Carson each buying an interest. For nearly three quarters of a century the mill had an enviable reputation—a reputation that has outlived the mill which was entirely destroyed by fire in December 1872. In these years the capacity was increased from a small "one vat mill", to about 2,300 pounds of the finest linen ledger and writing paper daily.

William W. Carson, son of David Carson; and John D. Carson—a grandson;—Zenas Crane, Jr., a grandson of the pioneer Zenas; and Charles O. Brown organized a Stock Company and in 1873-4 rebuilt, on a more extensive plan, the mill now making the best quality of watermarked "Old Berkshire Mill".

In 1853, David Carson was selected as the first president of the Pittsfield Bank. Soon after, he established his home in Pittsfield where he died in 1858. He lies buried in the Dalton Cemetery.

Of David Carson's six children—two daughters and four sons—the four sons were associated with the paper industry. Two—William and Thomas, have been mentioned in connection with the "Old Berkshire Mill". William W. Carson later became mayor of Newburgh, New York. To a third son, David B., on his twenty-first birthday, David Carson presented a well equipped paper mill near Newburgh; and his fourth son, George W. Carson established the paper company of Carson and Hard in New York.

There are two descendants of David Carson now living in Dalton—a granddaughter, Alice Carson Bates; and a great grandson, Harry Carson.

David Carson won financial success in the manufacture of paper, and he won a high place in the esteem of his fellow citizens in both of which his four sons shared.

BYRON WESTON COMPANY

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE DEFIANCE MILL

Early in the 19th Century, David Carson, one of a family of paper makers who owned a mill in Newburgh, New York, came to Dalton and obtained an interest in the paper mill now known as "The Old Berkshire". In 1816, his son, David Carson, wishing to embark in the manufacture of paper on his own account, purchased a tract of land bordering on the river above his father's mill, at a spot then known as "The Dalton Jambs," but for some reason did not build his mill until 1823.

Beginning at a point not far above where the Centennial Mill stands, the east branch of the Housatonic flows through a ravine and in a distance of less than a quarter of a mile, has a fall of many feet. Near what is now known as "Center Bridge", one of the early settlers had built a dam to impound water to furnish power for a grist mill, and the pond thus formed was known as "Grist Mill Pond", and is so described in early deeds. Some distance below this dam the gorge was pinched out by a huge ledge of rock.

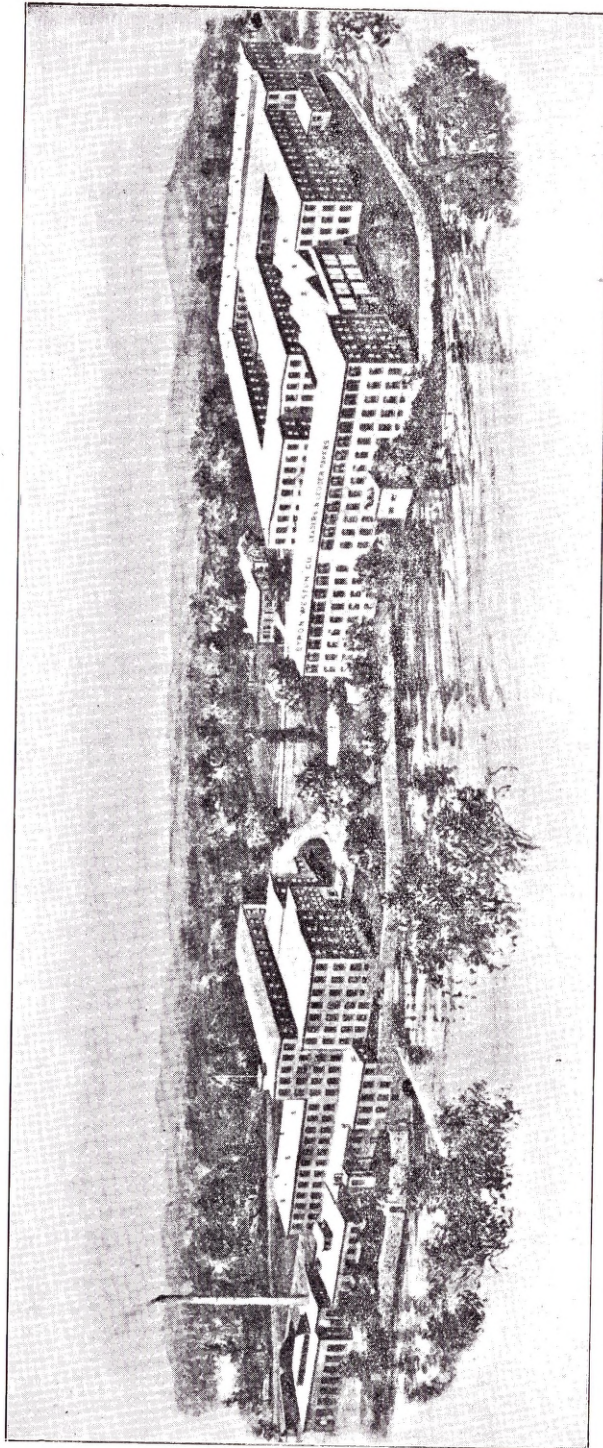
This "made to order" mill site was first occupied by one of the many saw-mills which gave employment to most of Dalton's labor at that period and it was this location that Mr. Carson purchased, and on which he erected his paper mill. The mill itself was certainly built of wood as were all the early mills on the river, and it was not until this first wooden building had burned to the ground, in 1852, that any of the paper manufacturers turned to brick and stone for building material.

The only material used for paper making was rags, and Mr. Carson, like other mill owners depended almost wholly upon what were known as "tin peddlers" for his "raw stock". These tin peddlers were itinerant dealers in household articles, mostly tin kitchen utensils which they carried in a van-like wagon, sometimes drawn by one horse, and sometimes by a "span".

There is no drawing or picture extant to show how the original mill built by Thomas Carson looked. (This mill was burned in May 22, 1852) but the Mill acquired by Mr. Weston in 1863 and remodelled by him is incorporated in the present Defiance Mill.

In 1840 David Carson sold his mill to Henry Chamberlin, who, first, with his son Ezekiel, and later with his nephews Burr and Albert Chamberlin, ran the mill for the next twenty-three years, with the exception of an interval of a year or two when it was leased to the firm of Platner & Smith of Lee.

In 1863 Franklin Weston bought the mill from Messrs. H. & B. Chamberlin and its subsequent history follows:



THE BYRON WESTON CO. MILLS



BYRON WESTON

THE PRESENT DEFIANCE MILL

When Franklin Weston purchased the Defiance Mill in 1863, it consisted of a main building, two stories and basement, with gable roof. The basement and first story walls were of brick and the top story of wood with shutters to regulate the flow of air, into the drying loft.

A wooden building of one story joined this main building on the east in which were housed two washers and a beater. A one story lean-to on the south contained a 42-inch Fourdrinier machine, and the soak tubs.

Power to run the mill was obtained solely from the water power generated by a water wheel just below the old dam, which was located approximately where the old wooden dam stands now, just above the stone dam, later erected by Mr. Weston. This spot was known then as the "Dalton Jambs" or simply as "The Jambs", and here it may be apropos to tell the story of how the Defiance Mill got its name.

Originally, the ledges of rock that jutted out from both banks of the river and formed these "Jambs" came very close together, and "pinched out" the stream to such an extent that the water passing through flowed with great force at all times.

The force of the flow was, of course, particularly powerful during the spring freshets and one dam after another was weakened and eventually washed away. It will be understood that this was very inconvenient for an industry that required power for machinery, but for a long time none but local talent was employed in repairing the ravages of these floods.

Finally, however, these breaks in the dam so annoyed the owners that they sent for an "outsider" to come in and supervise the erection of a dam that would hold under all conditions.

As the erection of the new dam progressed it was watched with jaundiced eye by the townspeople, and criticism of the stranger and his work was not stinted. Predictions were freely made that the new dam would not outlast the next spring floods, and no doubt rumors came to the ears of the builder that "there were half a dozen men in Dalton who could do a better job".

To add to the stranger's difficulties he is said not to have joined wholeheartedly in the Sunday devotions of the residents, and to have been, in fact, quite a "Godless Man". When the dam was completed, therefore, the builder, no doubt was at "swords points" with the villagers, for he announced publicly and profanely that "there was a dam that was built to stand and that he defied God himself to wash it away".

This profane pronouncement made a profound impression on the whole community; the dam soon became known as "The Defiance" dam, and later the Mill that it served became known by the same name.

For a long time Daltonians watched to see each succeeding freshet "take out" the Defiance dam, but they were always disappointed as the dam stood staunch until a long time later when the "Jambs" were blasted out and a longer and higher dam was built in its place.

A year after Mr. Franklin Weston acquired this property. He sold it to Messrs. C. O. Brown and his nephew, Byron Weston.

In 1867, owing, it is said, to a disagreement over the type and kind of paper that should be made, Mr. Weston bought Mr. Brown's interest in the Mill.

Mr. Weston had become convinced that a first class Ledger paper would meet with a ready sale and that the Defiance Mill was well equipped to make such a paper. His first product was known as Number 1 Linen, but does not appear to have been watermarked. Early in 1875, however, the name Weston's Linen Record was given this paper and the name appeared in a watermark in one line—Weston's Linen Record, followed by the date 1875. In March, 1878, the mark was altered so that the word "Weston's" appeared above the words "Linen Record" and the date (1878) just below them.

About 1870 Mr. Weston also adopted a watermark reading: "Defiance Paper Works," and this mark gradually evolved into the later "Defiance Linen Ledger".

Meanwhile, Mr. Weston's judgment as to the desirability of manufacturing a first class Ledger paper had been vindicated, and his business was showing a rapid but healthy growth. By 1871 the facilities of the old Mill were proving wholly inadequate and in that year he began the first building in a programme of expansion that continued for the rest of his life. Because it was necessary to keep his Mill running, he began operations by constructing a stone building completely inclosing the old one story beater room at the east end of the main building. When this building was partly completed serious defects were discovered in the walls (due to faulty construction) and this stone building was at once torn down and replaced by a brick structure. This building now constitutes the main building of the Defiance Mill. At the same time the wooden second story of the old building was torn off and the walls carried up a story.

In 1872 the Company's office was moved from the old mill into the room on the east side of the main building whose windows face the east, and north. This was the main office until the original unit of the present office building was built in 1897.

Increasing business compelled Mr. Weston to seek new sources of supply for pure clean water, and the artesian wells in and around the Defiance Mill were drilled in the following order: The first well was drilled in 1872-3. It is located in the basement of the main building, and is about 150 feet deep. The second is the "Bonanza" well, so called because of the large flow of water obtained and was drilled in 1884. This well is located about one thousand feet west of the boiler house, and is 239 feet deep. No more wells were drilled at the Defiance Mill, during Mr. Byron Weston's lifetime, but in 1908, a well was drilled at the southwest corner of the boiler house to a depth of 406 feet. This well is known as the first Rust well. A good flow of water was obtained, but the well went dry when the second Rust well was drilled, the same year, at the southeast corner of the boiler house. This well is 356 feet deep.

THE CENTENNIAL MILL

The first dam built on the stream that flows past the Byron Weston Company Plant probably stood some distance above what is now known as Center Bridge.

At any rate, this dam was the first one in that section of the river and supplied water to turn the wheels of a Fulling Mill, a Saw Mill and a Grist Mill, and until well along into the Nineteenth Century, the body of water formed by this dam was known as "Grist Mill Pond." This Grist Mill Pond dam gradually fell into disuse and disrepair, and in 1856 Captain Albert S. Chamberlin, who had been associated with his brother in operating the Defiance Mill, built a wooden dam some distance down stream and just above the stone dam that has since replaced it. This dam was intended to supply power for a new mill that he was erecting on the site of the present Centennial Mill.

For some time this Mill was operated by Mr. Chamberlin and later by the firm of Chamberlin & Mitchell (Mr. Clark W. Mitchell, father-in-law of Captain Byron Weston). In 1867 the mill was sold to General William F. Bartlett and Captain Edwin R. Moodie. General Bartlett was a distinguished veteran of the Civil War and had been the Colonel of the 49th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in which Byron Weston served as Captain of "K" Company. E. R. Moodie was an Englishman, a former Captain of a Cunard Liner, and a brother-in-law of General Bartlett.

In a short time Captain Moodie sold his interest in the paper mill to General Bartlett who almost immediately admitted as a partner another brother-in-law, Colonel Walter Cutting, also a veteran of the Civil War. The mill burned in January, 1875.

Byron Weston then bought the mill property and in 1876 erected a Mill that he named the Centennial, as in that year the Republic was celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of its existence as an independent nation. The original Centennial Mill was devoted to the making of "half stock" which was carried in that form to the Defiance Mill where it was further treated and converted into paper.

In 1883 Mr. Weston built the building lying along the North bank of the stream, between the Centennial and Defiance Mills, and to it transferred the rag department from the Centennial Mill.

The present stone dam which impounds the water of Center Pond was built in 1886. This dam is built directly below the old wooden dam, and is rather remarkable from the fact that it is not only "tied into" the foundations of the Centennial main building on the west, but extends across Depot Street, and is tied into the foundations of Center Block on the east.

In 1887 the East wing and old west wing (now the center wing of the Centennial Mill) were built. A 66-inch Rice, Barton & Fales Fourdrinier paper machine costing \$13,300.00 was installed in the East wing, and beater engines and other machinery were added to make the Centennial a complete mill unit.

In 1909 the main Centennial building was extended West to its present (1932) limit, and another wing was built (now the west wing). An 84-inch machine, Rice, Barton & Fales Fourdrinier, costing \$23,000.00 was placed in the west wing, and more and larger beater engines were installed in the main building. At the same time the space between the new west wing and the center wing was roofed over.

The original gable roof of the Centennial Mill was also removed, the wall raised one-half story, and a flat roof was substituted. The space thus created on the top floor was utilized to install a loop-dryer, developed by Mr. Philip Weston. This was the first successful loop-dryer to be installed in a high grade paper mill for drying Bonds and Ledgers.

The next important change in the physical appearance of the Centennial Mill was made in 1927, when the old chimney and stone boiler house were torn down and the space bounded by south wall of the old main building, the west and center wings, and the north wall of the rag building, was enclosed and roofed over. In the building thus created a 112-inch Rice, Barton & Fales Fourdrinier paper machine, costing \$85,500.00 was installed, the largest and finest machine then in use for making first class paper.



EAGLE HOTEL

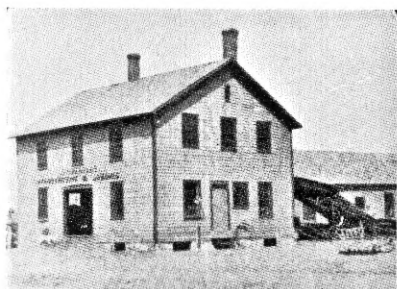
The old Eagle Hotel stood on the North side of Main Street just East of the present Center Block. It was built in 1800 by Ephraim Clark, who opened it as a hotel and it was for years an overnight stage stop on the old stage route from Albany through Northampton to Boston.

After Mr. Clark's death the hotel passed into the possession of the Chamberlin family and was run successively by Grove W. Branch, George Hall, John C. Chamberlin and Mrs. Louise Farnam.

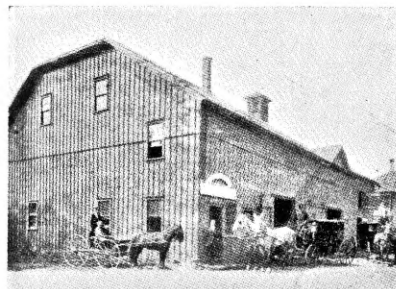
In 1926 the old building which had stood in its original location for 126 years without any alteration in its design was torn down.



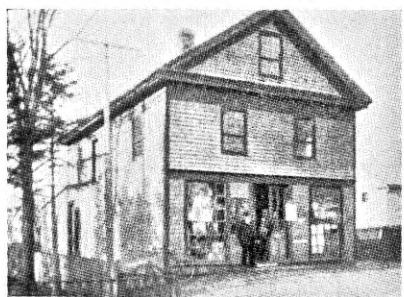
CHAMBERLIN HOUSE



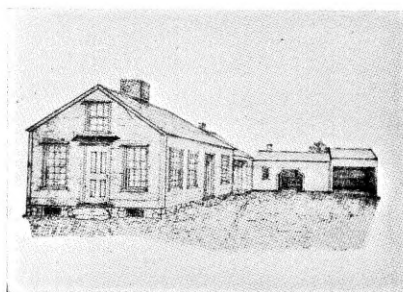
BENTLEY'S BLACKSMITH SHOP



PRATT'S LIVERY STABLE



SMITH & WRIGHT'S STORE



BARDIN HOUSE



JENNINGS HOUSE



OLD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

KITTREDGE MILL

Some three quarters of a mile east of the center of the town, in what was known as the Marsh district, or later as Kittredgeville, is a water power which has had a varied experience. The land through which it flows was then the Henry Marsh place who built in Dalton in the year 1800. The house is now Nos. 34 and 36 East St. It has been remodeled so that none of the original house shows. Mr. Marsh had a store on the north side of East Main St., west of the Orchard Road.

In 1844, the Marsh place was bought by Levi Herrick, who built a sawmill on the river, on the south side of the road leading to Windsor. Later this was replaced by a tannery, and in the year 1866 the estate was sold to Charles J. Abel and James R. Kittredge, becoming the firm of C. J. Kittredge and Son.

This firm repaired, enlarged, and changed the building into a woolen mill, thirty-three looms and some twenty-four hundred spindles making pure wool, cassimere, and fine doeskins, employing about 100 hands.

At first they burned wood in their boilers and it was no uncommon sight to see a hundred or so cords of wood in their yard.

The firm had a general store connected with the mill and in the winter, the farmers would draw in wood and exchange it for groceries.

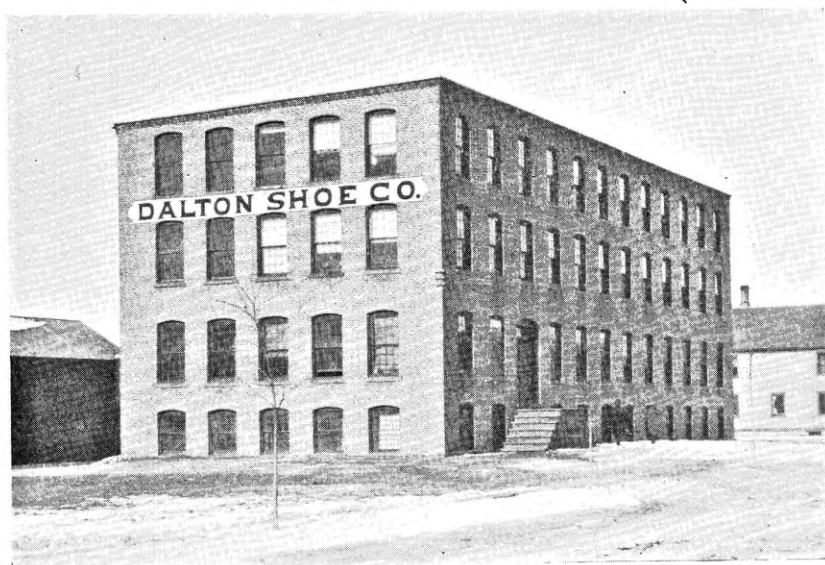
The mill ceased operation in 1888, and in a few years the buildings were torn down; the brick of the large chimney being made into a house. This is now the last house in Dalton on the Windsor road near the Hinsdale line.

BENTLEY'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

An almost antedated relic of the years, not so long since, when respectable buggies thronged the industrious streets of Dalton; a relic of the evenings when a light carriage was often wont

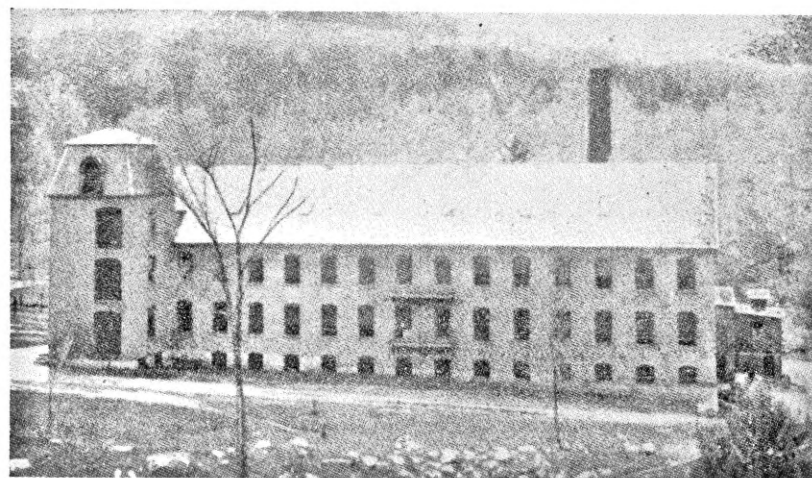
"To follow the path of the sunset
Till the horse—'twas stated—chose
To stop at the edge of the thicket—
Nor would't move till the moon arose."

A relic of the days when many a farm horse was ridden to town to be shod, still stood after a period of about 100 years in the midst of the town. It was known as Bentley's Blacksmith Shop, and had been run by the Bentleys for many years. Of late, and until 1931, Mr. John Logan maintained this reminder of olden Dalton, but it was then removed; and on its site now stands the modern Messenger's Garage.



DALTON SHOE SHOP

Dalton Shoe Shop was built in 1889. The original building was 40x100 ft. and four stories high but as the business increased it was enlarged in 1902 to its present size. It employed two hundred hands and turned out five hundred pairs of shoes per day. It ceased operation in 1905. It was then used by the Spark Coil Co. of Pittsfield a few years and in 1932 it merged into the Z. & W. M. Crane, Inc. and is now known as the Stationery Factory of the Crane Co., Inc.



OUR WOOLEN MILLS

The first woolen mill was built in 1814 by Rev. Isaiah Weston who carried on the business until his death in 1821. He made broadcloths, popular goods for the times, and other materials.

His son continued the business for a time but with the British goods coming into the country at this period, Mr. Weston terminated his business not caring to compete with foreign trade. The business was not started again until 1865 under Hawkins, Wilson, and West Co. running it for some years. After the death of Mr. Hawkins and the retirement of Mr. West, the late Mr. James Wilson of Pittsfield operated with Mr. Christopher Glennon, who had entered the firm. Later Mr. Glennon and his sons carried on the business. It has changed ownership several times, at present being under the firm of Sawyer Regan Co. who enlarged the mill to its present size and capacity.



BERKSHIRE STREET RAILWAY

About 1894 the inhabitants of the Town of Dalton began an agitation for better and more frequent communication between their town and the Shire City of Pittsfield. At that time the Boston and Albany Railroad running some six or seven trains a day between Dalton and Pittsfield, together with two round trips by stage and individual livery service, constituted all the rapid methods of communication between the town and the city. Messrs. Peter and Patrick Dolan had acquired the Pittsfield Street Railway and changed the equipment from horse cars to electric service. Petitions were circulated to have this line extended to Dalton and after several hectic town meetings a franchise was granted to the Pittsfield Street Railway to extend tracks from the town line to Center Block and on July 3, 1896 this line was completed to Union Block and the first cars, four in number, made the initial trip to Pittsfield and return carrying about 250 invited guests.

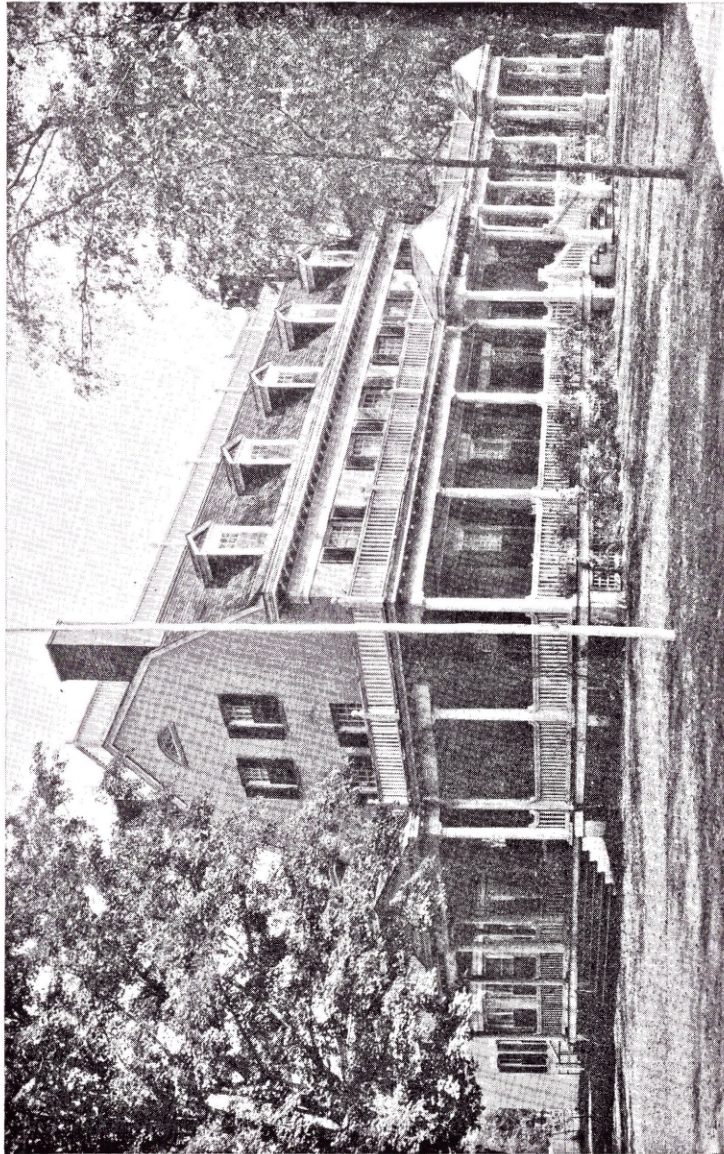
The Railway Company continued their services until November 1, 1932, when the cars were taken off the road and the following year the tracks were removed.



DALTON GARAGE



MESSENGER'S GARAGE



PRESENT IRVING HOUSE



OLD IRVING HOUSE OF 1889

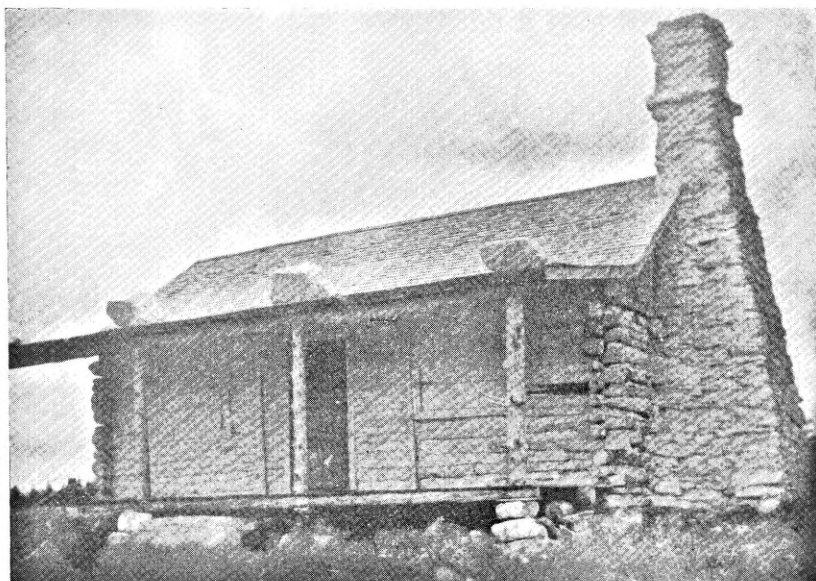
THE IRVING HOUSE

For many years a boarding house stood on Main Street accommodating the few who needed such a place, but as the paper industry grew, a larger place was needed to accommodate the business men.

Thus in 1888 Zenas Crane and W. Murray Crane determined to build a modern hotel. The old boarding house was moved back and remodeled for kitchens and help, and the new hotel built on the front lot. The contract was given to John Flansburgh and in the Spring of 1889 the new hotel was opened being duly admired, and appreciated by the citizens, as it added greatly to the appearance of our town.

It was named the "Irving House" for Washington Irving who was one of Mr. Zenas Crane's favorite authors.

The old Irving House was burned to the ground on March 16th, 1894. supposedly by defective wiring, electricity being in its infancy.



WESTON'S CHALET

Byron Weston, in 1883, bought what was known in later days as the Henry Hale farm. It covered one hundred thirty acres, and was called then, the Caleb Ensign farm.

Employing George F. Pike as farm manager, he began farming. The stock, comprising at first of three horses, twelve cows, one hundred ten sheep, and seven swine, increased, and Mr. Weston extended his lands. One tract, an area of two hundred acres on the top of North mountain, was developed into a sheep pasture; roads were cut through the woods to it; and in the year 1887, almost at the top ridge of the mountain, a log house was built.

The land through which Pleasant St. now passes, and in which Ensign and Deming Streets were still unbuilt, was all part of the farm—used at one time as a cornfield.

When, in 1890, John L. Mack became manager of the farm, it increased both in size and in capacity. The farm stock rose in numbers to five horses, forty head of cattle, three hundred sheep, and twelve swine. Still more mea-

dow land about the mountain was mowed, and still more mountain land was utilized as a pasture for sheep.

The road to these lots was improved, and the log house—Weston's Chalet—became more popular. In it Mr. Weston often entertained his friends, and notable personages indeed,—former governor John D. Long; Henry L. Dawes, at one time senator; Judge John Barker, and others—have been received there where roast beef, and corn and watermelon were served on tables frequently set for fifty. In it the Monday Evening Club of Pittsfield has met; and many others have gathered in this "Great Hearth Lodge" on the mountain, that is Mt. Weston. Nor is Mt. Weston a low mountain, for, aside from the Greylock range, it reaches the highest point in Massachusetts, an elevation of 2,200 feet.

As time passed, however, dogs played havoc in the flocks of sheep; and vandalism played its part with the lodge. The building, partially rebuilt and repaired, is used now by the scouts. But in a few years the "Chalet"—left to Dame Nature—will become a huge stone chimney rising above a great hearth and fireplace and standing alone in the midst of a forest.

WAHCONAH COUNTRY CLUB

At a meeting of a group of the citizens of Dalton late in 1928, it was decided to construct a golf course in Dalton. Money was raised through subscription of the townspeople, and construction was undertaken and practically completed in the year 1929. Following the formal opening of the course late that year, the following officers, the club's first, were elected:—A. J. Moyer, Treasurer; F. L. Couch, Secretary; W. G. O'Connell, Vice President; C. R. Silvernail, President.

Gradually the membership of the club has been built up until it now numbers one hundred and ninety-three persons, the great majority of whom are residents of Dalton.

The course is now under the supervision of T. R. Stevens, who has served as greenskeeper ever since the course was built. The professional is Walter J. Urbane of Tenafly, New Jersey, and the present officers are as follows:—H. J. Hewett, Secretary and Treasurer; R. E. Burbank, Vice President; B. Crane, President.

The annual dues are \$25.00 for men and \$12.50 for women, with the greens fees at \$1.50 for eighteen holes and \$1.00 for nine. The course is at all times open to the general public for general inspection, as well as for play.

COMMUNITY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The present Community Recreation Association is an outgrowth of the Committee on Community Recreation which was organized in 1916, as a direct result of the interest of Mr. Z. Marshall Crane in recreation affairs in Dalton. A survey was made at that time, permission to use the first two playgrounds, Pine Grove Park and Weston's Beach, obtained from their owners, private financial support obtained, equipment purchased and built, and an organized program under competent supervision inaugurated.

The first efforts were a complete success and the next year the sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars was appropriated at the Town Meeting as a partial help toward the financing for that year.

Each year thereafter the playgrounds were improved and the program increased, and additional money obtained from Town appropriations. In 1920 a small playground was opened on the East Street School property, and in 1921 one in Craneville.

In 1923 when the Community House was ready for occupancy, the Committee was asked by the Trustees of the Community House to take over the management of both the house and the program. At this time the committee was reorganized into the Community Recreation Association, of which all persons in Dalton over eighteen are members. Of course this move considerably changed and enlarged the Association's activities, and since then the responsibility for the entire program of the Community House during the fall, winter and spring months, and of the playgrounds during the summer months, has fallen on this Association.

ZENAS CRANE FUND FOR STUDENT AID, INC.

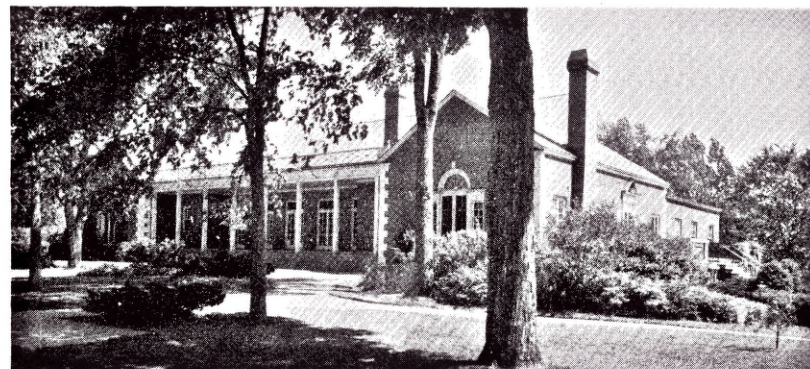
This corporation was constituted June 30th, 1926, for the purpose of holding and managing the Trust Fund of \$100,000, created by the gifts of Mrs. Zenas Crane, Mrs. Samuel G. Colt, Z. Marshall Crane and Charles K. Crane, to establish in Dalton a permanent memorial to the late Zenas Crane. The income from this Fund is devoted to the purpose of aiding worthy boys and girls in obtaining a higher education. This Fund will perpetuate the memory of a man who was interested all his life in furthering the educational aims of the young men and women of his native town and very fittingly symbolizes his just, modest and unassuming personality.

The Board of Trustees, who shall be residents of Dalton, have served continuously since the Corporation was formed in 1926, with the following membership—Charles F. Sawyer, President; T. M. Pomeroy, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Cora Hitt Smith, John H. Bellows and Andrew M. Canavan.

Mrs. Samuel G. Colt of Pittsfield, daughter of the late Zenas Crane, and his sons, Z. Marshall Crane and the late Charles K. Crane, have added substantial amounts to the income from the Fund, enabling the Trustees to give aid to 65 boys and girls, graduates of the Dalton High School, up to the present time. The basis of award to any boy or girl is general character, scholarship and all-round ability, and they must be among the first twenty of their class in standing, during their four-year period in the Dalton High School. No aid is continued unless the student makes satisfactory progress and maintains good deportment.

The Zenas Crane Fund for Student Aid, Inc., has had the whole-hearted approval and co-operation of the School Board of the Town of Dalton since its inception.

In the eight years of the Corporation's existence, 33 boys and girls have been graduated from many colleges and schools for higher education, throughout this country. Nearly 20 of these graduates are now gainfully employed, so the purposes for which this Fund was established are now reaching fulfillment.



THE W. MURRAY CRANE COMMUNITY HOUSE

The structure, known to all as the Community House, is a beautiful tribute to a most beloved citizen. Overlooking the valley below, and framed in a background vista of hills stands its stately marble memorial to

W. MURRAY CRANE

1853-1920

Devoted in his Service to Community,
Commonwealth and Nation

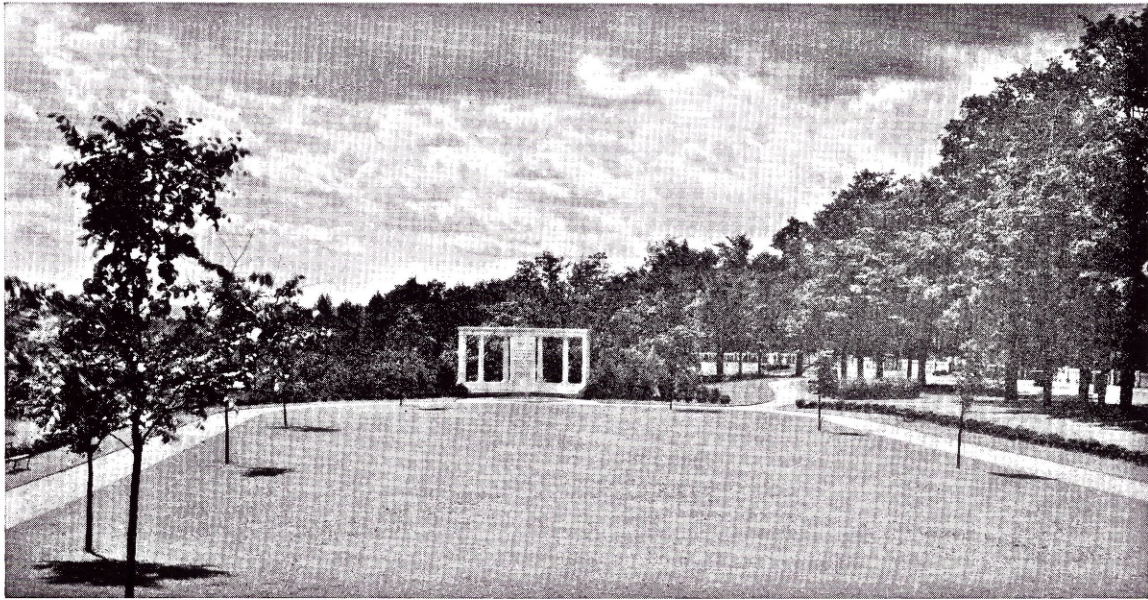
GOVERNOR 1900-1903

UNITED STATES SENATOR, 1904-1913

This Memorial is Affectionately Dedicated
By His Neighbors And Friends

When on the ninth of November in 1923, the building and memorial were dedicated, Ex-Governor M. B. Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania made the prophetic statement, "It holds ideals to a good citizenship"—a statement which has been realized in the ensuing years.

Provided with the most adequate equipment for both sport and for entertainment, it has become a popular center for all gatherings.



CRANE MEMORIAL



A DALTON SCENE



DALTON GRANGE, NO. 23, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Dalton Grange, the town's oldest organization was founded by Gardner T. Baker at the Old Town Hall on December 22, 1873. There were twenty-two charter members, and from these Henry A. Barton, Sr. was elected master, Sylvester L. Young secretary, and John S. Barton, treasurer. The purpose of the organization has always been to further agriculture, be educational and social.

Six years later Worthy State Master Benjamin L. Ware dedicated the Bartonville Grange Hall, the first in the state to be built and owned by its members. Here Berkshire County Pomona Grange was organized with Wesley B. Barton as its first master.

The fact that Dalton Grange members have capably filled more state offices than those of any other grange proves their loyalty to the grange organization. John J. Glynn, a past master, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the grange wrote: "In turning back the leaves of the Record one must be impressed by these eminent workers Barton, Warren, Parker, Brown, Bardin, and Grosbeck ever thoughtful, ever helpful to the youngsters of my time. My feelings and undinted praise concern those great pioneers, that

labored so diligently thirty, forty, fifty and sixty years ago building for the future that Dalton Grange might be a successful institution." The same spirit which urged those Patrons of Husbandry on to success exists among the Dalton members today.

In the early days of the Dalton Grange it played an important part in the social activities of the community. They sponsored such annual events as the Easter Monday Ball, Sugar Eat, Strawberry Festival, and Harvest Suppers. It boasted the only bowling alley in the town.

During the ensuing years Dalton Grange has kept abreast with the march of progress. Various activities supplanted those of bygone years as County Extension programs, boys' and girls' activities, amateur play groups, etc. During the World War a chapter of Red Cross carried on in its hall, more recently a Camp Fire Group has met weekly, and Sunday School Services were held.

The success of the organization has been due to the splendid cooperation of its members under such capable leaders as these:

Henry A. Barton*	John W. Fuller
Henry N. Curtis*	W. H. Woodworth*
Robert A. Rice*	James E. Bardin
Henry A. Barton, Jr.*	Herbert B. Brown
Sylvester L. Young*	Frank N. Groesbeck
Geo. N. Brown	John J. Glynn
Edward L. Brown*	Lyle B. Parker
Samuel I. Parker*	Harold N. Bryant
John S. Barton*	Henry Loehr
John H. Smith*	John Loehr
Fred L. Warren*	E. H. Clark
Wesley B. Barton	Edward W. Eustace
Mrs. S. I. Parker*	John Bartels
W. B. Warren*	

*Deceased

FLINTSTONE GRANGE, No. 353, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

A meeting of those interested in the organizing of a new Grange in the town of Dalton, met in the K. of C. hall, Union Block, on April 27, 1916.

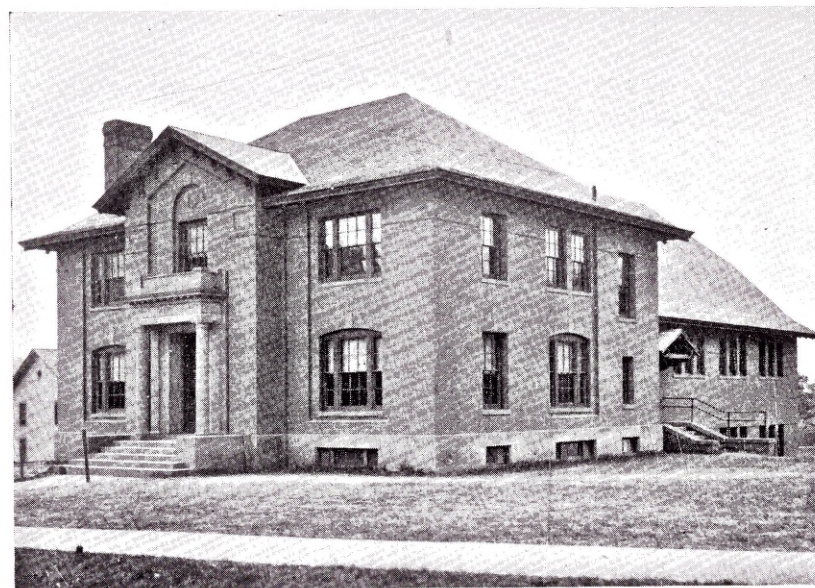
The meeting was called to order with John J. Glynn, of Dalton, Deputy of the Massachusetts State Grange in the chair. Briefly he explained that the Grange to be formed had the unanimous consent of the members of the Dalton Grange No. 23, at a meeting held in their hall, October 5th, 1915. He then introduced Mr. Charles M. Gardner, of Westfield, High Priest of Demeter, a former State Master of the Massachusetts State Grange, who instituted the new Grange. One hundred sixteen persons circled around the altar and Deputy Harry E. Gardner, of Hinsdale, administered the Obligation of the Laborer and the Maid.

Upon motion of Jeannete S. Glynn, the name of "Flintstone" was adopted as the name of the Grange.

Motion was made and adopted that Ralph B. Marean, C. M. Parker, and H. Ward Ford be appointed a nominating committee to bring in a list of officers. The following names were submitted: Master, S. I. Parker; Overseer, F. Roy Browning; Lecturer, Jeannette S. Glynn; Steward, H. Ward Ford; Assistant Steward, C. M. Parker; Chaplain, Rev. F. C. Wheelock; Treasurer, Roswell W. Smith; Secretary, Mabel E. Fillio; Gatekeeper, C. E. Torrey; Ceres, Sara G. Harris; Flora, Harriet M. Jewet; Pomona, Ruth E. Loomis; Lady Assistant Steward, Mildred C. Davis; Executive Committee, W. S. Dunn, John Sylvester, Dr. P. J. Sullivan. Motion was made that the Secretary cast a single ballot electing the list of officers as presented by the nominating committee.

The foregoing officers, with the exception of Chaplain, Rev. F. C. Wheelock, were installed by Charles M. Gardner, assisted by Mrs. Harry E. Gardner of Hinsdale Grange, No. 19, Mrs. D. C. Cady, Master of Hilltop Grange, No. 267 and Mrs. Wesley B. Barton of Dalton Grange, No. 23.

The following members have served as masters: S. I. Parker, Mrs. J. J. Glynn, Luke Bicknell, Arthur Van Deusen, Herbert S. Briggs, E. Oscar Welch, Frank Williams, Walter Hill, Bessie S. Welch, and Ray Thompson.



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

During the year of 1885 on June 1st, through the efforts of Mr. S. I. Hildreth, a group of men banded together for the purpose of establishing a Young Men's Christian Association in Dalton. Mr. A. H. Stanton was chosen the first president and the recording secretary was Mr. F. N. Grosbeck. At that time there were forty-two members listed. In 1886 Mr. S. I. Hildreth was president and Mr. W. W. Schofield recording secretary. The secretary who gave evenings was Mr. F. B. B. Sears. Membership at this time was eighty-six.

The first meetings were held at 58 Depot Street, located in the Brophy Block. In 1888 rooms were obtained in Weston's Block where the organization remained for the next twenty-one years.

In 1891 the following men who comprised the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association: Frank B. B. Sears, Frank W. Strong, George W. Forbes, Albert H. Stanton, Henry A. Barton, Jr., Charles W. Corey, George W. Andrews, William B. Clark, Byron Weston, W. Murray Crane, Walter W. Schofield and Charles F. Noble, petitioned the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a charter of incorporation. The purpose of the incorporation under the name of the Young Men's Christian Association of Dalton, for the

purpose of improving the spiritual, mental, social, and physical condition of the young men and establishing and maintaining of a library and reading room and for social meetings.* The charter was issued as of March 17, 1891.

In 1909, the Association moved into its new building located at 27 South Carson Avenue. This new building afforded the much needed enlarged reading rooms, gymnasium and social facilities.

With the erection of the Community House in 1923, the adult program carried on in the Y. M. C. A. was transferred to the Community House thus relieving the Y. M. C. A. of the adult program and leaving more space and opportunity for the younger boys to participate in its program.

The bowling alleys were removed and placed in the Community House as part of the adult program. The space occupied by the bowling alleys has been turned into a manual training workshop where the boys do sloyd work.

In September of 1932 the building burned, destroying the gymnasium and the roof over the main building. After the fire the building was rebuilt in its original form.

Today the building stands as a tribute to those, who in the days gone by, had the foresight and interests of Dalton's youth at heart, to help them along Life's road to manhood.

"Across the years of yesterday
He sometimes comes to me,
A little lad just back from play,
The lad I used to be.
And, oh, he looks so wistful
Once he has crept within.
I wonder if he hopes to see
The man I might have been."

PRESIDENTS OF DALTON Y. M. C. A.

Frank Stanton, 1885	A. J. Reed, 1898-1923
S. I. Hildreth, 1886-1892	W. M. Crane, Jr., 1923-1926
Frank Sears, 1892-1894	R. B. Marean, 1926-1928
Frank Strong, 1894-1896	J. W. Hagar, 1928-1930
Reubin Pierce, 1896-1898	R. C. Pierce, 1930-



COLUMBIA COUNCIL, No. 411, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

On February 22, 1882 the first Knights of Columbus council was instituted in New Haven, Connecticut, and on March 29 of the same year the Connecticut State Assembly granted a charter to this organization allowing them to conduct a fraternal insurance business. This small organization, based upon the principles of Charity and Patriotism, grew rapidly and within a few years Councils had been organized in every state in the Union.

On May 3, 1899 through the efforts of the late Dr. William J. Mercer of Pittsfield, who at that time was District Deputy of western Massachusetts, Columbia Council No. 411 was instituted at Dalton with a charter membership of the following twenty-nine men: Eugene Bartley, John Coleman, Duffield Counter, Thomas Crane, Richard Croke, Dennis C. Daly, Fred Daly, James Dowling, John E. Dowling, Michael Dowling, Robert Dwyer, John Kelly, Patrick M. Kelly, Martin Kirk, Thomas Leamy, William McDonald, John L. Millett, Thomas J. Millett, Thomas H. Mooney, James J. Pender, Richard F. Pender, Dr. H. F. Quinlan, John A. Ryan, William Tully, John Vavasour, William Welch, Michael Woodlock, William Woodlock, Timothy Young. Twelve of these men are still active members. Through the co-operation of these men with their first grand knight, Mr. John A. Ryan, the principles of Knighthood were so well established in Dalton that today the Council has one hundred and eighty-five of the eight hundred and fifty thousand Knights of Columbus throughout the country.

The first meeting of the Council was held in the Riverside Block on Depot Street. At this meeting the following officers were elected: Grand Knight, John A. Ryan; Deputy Grand Knight, John J. Kelly; Recorder, Eugene Bartley; Financial Secretary, John E. Dowling; Treasurer, William Woodlock; Warden, Dennis C. Daly; Chancellor, Dr. H. F. Quinlan; Secretary, Michael Woodlock; Inside Guard, John Millett; Trustees, James Dowling, William Tully and Thomas Leamy. After a time the Council changed its headquarters from this block to the old Union Block, remaining there until this building was destroyed by fire on February 4, 1914. The ravages of this fire took from Co-

*Quoted from Charter as recorded in Volume 69, page 4446.

Columbia Council all of its records and properties but desiring to carry on, the Council took up temporary quarters in the Clark Block on Main Street in April, 1914. Upon the completion of the new Union Block in 1916, the Council moved into its present quarters which had been arranged to meet its requirements by the Crane Realty Co., owners of the building. Through the efforts of the various members of the council, new furniture and other necessary equipment was secured.

Columbia Council has taken an active interest in all public affairs particularly during the World War. Forty of its members were in the armed services of the United States. The civilian members of the Council took a very active part in the sale and purchase of Liberty Bonds, and through the Council, various articles of comfort was forwarded to the boys at the front, and twelve hundred dollars was forwarded for the Knights of Columbus war work overseas.

Two of our members, Mr. John Connolly of Berkshire and Mr. Carlton W. Cameron, then of Washington, D. C., but now a member of Columbia Council, volunteered their services as war secretaries and did yeoman service in the Knights of Columbus camps in France.

On July 4, 1919, Columbia Council entered a float depicting a "Knights of Columbus Overseas Hut" in the homecoming celebration parade. At that time one hundred members of the Council marched in a body behind the float.

After the War, Columbia Council returned to a peace time existence and its activities since then have been of a social nature. In 1930 the Council entered a float and delegation of members in the Tercentennial Parade as well as taking an active part in the Pageant.

During the thirty-five years of Columbianism in Dalton, nineteen men have served the Council as Grand Knights and the Council has had the distinction of contributing two district deputies to the Order, the late Joseph H. Claffie and James F. Tully.

The outstanding social events of the Council was the formal ball held the first New Year's, Jan. 1, 1900 after the institution of the Council and the thirtieth anniversary dinner and dance held on May 3, 1929 in the Community House. On May 3 of this year the Council celebrated its thirty-fifth anniversary.

In a spirit of patriotism Columbia Council enters wholeheartedly into this, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the town of Dalton.

ST. AGNES' CIRCLE, DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA



St. Agnes' Circle, Daughters of Isabella, a society of Catholic women of Dalton, is a subordinate Circle of the National Circle, Daughters of Isabella, an organization of 45,000 women, active in twenty-two states, in the District of Columbia, and in three provinces of Canada.

On November 24, 1924, with the approval and cooperation of Reverend Fr. Gallen, pastor of St. Agnes' Church, and now chaplain of the Circle, a meeting was held in the Knights of Columbus Hall to consider the formation of a Catholic women's society. Rev. A. B. O'Grady presided at this meeting at which a committee, with Mrs. John Shea as chairman, was elected to further plans for organizing a branch of the Daughters of Isabella in Dalton.

The first officers of the Circle were elected at a meeting held December 16, 1924, and these officers were installed on January 11, 1925. On this same date there were initiated the 120 Charter Members of the organization.

The first Worthy Regent of St. Agnes' Circle was Miss Elizabeth M. Barrett under whose capable leadership was laid the secure foundation upon which the remarkable success of the Order has been built. Other members who have efficiently served the Circle as regents are: Miss Agnes B. Killeen, Miss Anna E. Kaley, Mrs. Elizabeth Harrigan and the present incumbent, Mrs. Margaret Galliher.

The aims of the Order are varied. It aims to promote Sociability; it aims to be of practical benefit to its members by providing an Insurance of \$100. But the chief aim, the objective for which St. Agnes' Circle will go down in the history of Dalton, is Welfare Work.

The Welfare Work has been conducted by a committee of five members appointed by the Regent. This committee has spent during the life of the Circle more than two thousand eight hundred dollars or on an average of more than three hundred dollars a year. This amount, however, does not show the full extent of the benevolent work of the organization since it does not include the value of large quantities of clothing and food donated by members.

Although St. Agnes' Circle is a Catholic organization, it has not limited its benevolence to Catholics. Nor has it confined its efforts to Dalton, as evidenced by the fact that in 1927 it sent \$267 to the victims of the Becket Flood. The Circle has frequently financed projects referred to it by the local branch of the Red Cross and it has been of invaluable assistance to the Welfare Board of Dalton especially during the Depression.

St. Agnes' Circle demonstrated its civic spirit on July 4, 1930 when it entered a Float and also marched in the Tercentenary parade. Their float was awarded a first prize.

The financial status of the Order has always been excellent. Such projects as "The Maid of Wistaria", Whist Parties, Food Sales, Rummage Sales and Lawn Parties have yielded abundant returns.

St. Agnes' Circle has worked untiringly but it has also found time to play. Once a month a Social is conducted and each January the Circle celebrates its birthday with a banquet generally held at The Irving House. Speakers for these banquets have included the Reverend Fr. Lyons of Shadowbrook, Mrs. Susan Newman of Albany, N. Y., Mrs. Mary Davitt, National Treasurer of the Order and Attorney John M. Shea of this town.

Seven times has Death invaded the ranks of the Circle. In January, 1931 it made an almost irreparable gap when it removed Miss Agnes B. Killeen, a Past Regent of the Circle, and a zealous and conscientious worker.

St. Agnes' Circle is now in its tenth year. It has had an enviable past. Never has it been obliged to refuse aid to a deserving cause. It hopes that its future will be equally enviable and that when emergencies arise St. Agnes' Circle will be able as in the past to say, "We are ready to do our part."



MAIN STREET



UNITY LODGE, A. F. & A. M.

Unity Lodge was organized in 1896 and a year later on July 15, 1897, received its Charter.

Largely through the generosity of the Honorable Byron Weston, a prime-mover in establishing the Lodge in Dalton, and a Charter member, rooms were fitted up in Center Block and handsomely furnished ready for the dedication by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge. These exercises were carried out in the summer of 1897.

Mr. Franklin Weston, Mr. Weston's oldest son, served as Master of the Lodge under dispensation, and also was the first elected Master, 1897 and '98. (In this connection it is interesting to know that Mr. Franklin Weston, an uncle of the Honorable Byron Weston served for several years as Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Western Massachusetts.)

There were 34 Charter members of the Lodge of whom the following are still living: Herbert L. Allen, Edwin H. Brownson, Charles H. Church, Albert H. Foster, John P. Mack, Cushing M. Parker and Martin D. Pelton.

The following men have, in the order named, been Masters of Unity Lodge in the 38 years of its existence.

PAST MASTERS OF UNITY LODGE

Franklin Weston	James F. Haworth	Charles H. Chamberlin
Earl Ingalls	Charles C. Bartlett	George C. Rider, Jr.
Edwin H. Brownson	Louis G. Schneider	Herbert H. Collins
William S. Warren	Herbert R. Messenger	Franklin J. Champlin
Cushing M. Parker	Frank A. Pinney	Harold E. Price
Leroy P. Adams	Lawrence A. Haworth	Howard G. Adams
John H. Bellows	LeRoy Shaw	Charles F. Messenger
Charles H. Cooper	George Schneider	Charles W. Ford
Martin E. Stockbridge	J. Earl Cocklin	Charles Smith
Harlem S. Lawrence	Jesse M. Dunbar	William J. Burbank
Martin D. Pelton	Elmer G. Pike	Amos L. Allen
Walter C. Reed	Roswell W. Smith	Willard G. Jordan

The Masters and Wardens serving the Lodge for the year 1934 are: Willard G. Jordan, W. M.; Charles J. Neumeister, S. W.; and Donald H. Cande, J. W.



HANCOCK POST, No. 187, G. A. R.

HANCOCK POST, No. 187, G. A. R.

Organized 1887.

Membership 55

Last Veteran of Post

Charles H. Groesbeck

Died, 1934

DALTON CIVIL WAR VETERANS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Edward Northrup | 21. Waldo Brown |
| 2. George W. Smith | 22. John Decker |
| 3. William Babcock | 23. Harvey Fuller |
| 4. Albert B. Champlin | 24. Martin Kelly |
| 5. John D. Smith | 25. James M. Kinney |
| 6. Samuel G. Fuller | 26. William Fuller |
| 7. Samuel L. Caesar | 27. Christopher Farrell |
| 8. Waldo Dill | 28. John Raftis |
| 9. | 29. Fred Gardner |
| 10. Charles Crowley | 30. Lyman Fenn |
| 11. Alexander Abody | 31. |
| 12. George S. Rider | 32. William Woodruff |
| 13. | 33. William J. Simmons |
| 14. George Tucker | 34. |
| 15. Robert Dwyer | 35. |
| 16. George T. Pike | 36. William Miller |
| 17. William Cranston | 37. |
| 18. George E. Hagar | 38. Dwight Parker |
| 19. | 39. |
| 20. John H. Smith | |

LIST OF SPANISH WAR VETERANS

George Scudder	2d Regiment Mass. Infantry
Lyle B. Parker	Co. M, 2d Regiment Mass. Infantry
Francis Tower	Co. K, 11th U. S. Infantry
Martin Glendon	Co. D, 47th U. S. Infantry
William Glendon	Co. K, 11th U. S. Infantry
Myles M. Clark	2d Regiment Mass. Infantry
William L. Gaffney	19th Battery U. S. Field Artillery
John A. Brown	Troop L, 8th U. S. Cavalry
Harry W. Smith	Co. H, U. S. Cavalry
John Kearney	Co. G, 11th U. S. Infantry
James F. Flynn	Co. I, 23rd U. S. Infantry
James Jandro	Battery A, 6th New York Artillery Regiment
James Roger O'Gara	Co. L, 11th U. S. Infantry
George Oakes	Co. G, 11th U. S. Infantry
Carlton Pierce	Co. C, 11th U. S. Infantry
Joseph Quill	Co. G, 11th U. S. Infantry
John F. Rigney	Co. G, 11th U. S. Infantry
Richard E. Shea	Co. K, 11th U. S. Infantry
George S. Hagar	Co. M, 2d Regiment, Mass. Infantry
Edward Mooney	Co. M, 2d Regiment, Mass. Infantry
Richard Dowling	Co. F, U. S. Army
William Quill	Co. H, 5th U. S. Cavalry
James Chalmers	Co. A, U. S. Artillery
William D. Niverson	Co. H, New York Volunteers
George J. Hildreth	Co. L, U. S. Cavalry
Charles Chalmers	Co. E, 11th U. S. Infantry
Charles Jandro	
Joseph Champion	Troop A, 7th U. S. Cavalry

DALTON'S PART IN THE WORLD WAR



The spirit of Dalton is something intangible, difficult to define but nevertheless strong and enduring. It is a spirit of fellowship, of friendliness and wholehearted cooperation, a spirit of which neighboring cities and towns are at times envious. This Dalton spirit was never more in evidence than during the trying days of the World War. We doubt if any city or town in the United States has a more honorable or patriotic record of service to country during the World War than Dalton.

Dalton sent 174 men to the colors, of whom seven made the supreme sacrifice. Two of Dalton's women were army nurses and served overseas. Seventeen youths enrolled in their respective colleges in the Student Army and Navy Training Corps. Two women served overseas with the Y. M. C. A. in its Canteen Service with the A. E. F. and one Dalton man similarly served with the K. of C. while another Dalton woman served with the American Red Cross. Thus 197 served their country in one capacity or another. After the war when the great task of reconstruction and demobilization was on, three more Dalton citizens played their parts, one in the Red Cross Reconstruction service, one in the Near East Relief and one in the Y. M. C. A.

But while many of Dalton's youths were on the firing line in France or preparing themselves for such service, those who remained at home were likewise "doing their bit."

The war had to be financed and Uncle Sam called for loans from the American people. Four times for Liberty Loans and once for the Victory Loan the call came and the record of Dalton speaks for itself. For the First Liberty Loan in May, 1917 Dalton subscribed \$616,100 or \$175 per capita. In October, 1917, Dalton subscribed \$1,035,700 for the Second Liberty Loan or at the rate of \$295 for every inhabitant of the town. The Third Liberty Loan and the Fourth Liberty Loans were taken by Daltonians to the tune of approximately one million dollars each or roughly about \$290 per capita. Then came the Victory Loan and again Dalton responded enthusiastically and subscribed another one million dollars with a per capita of \$292. Thus Dalton answered the country's call for funds with an average per capita rate of \$268, nearly equal, if not actually exceeding the record of any United States city or town.

The townspeople purchased thousands of dollars' worth of War Savings and Thrift Stamps.

Another outstanding achievement was Dalton's response to the appeal for funds for the War Work of the American Red Cross. Dalton's quota was

set at \$4,000. The local committee volunteered to raise \$25,000 and the townspeople actually contributed the sum of \$45,158 or \$12.90 per inhabitant. A second call for funds by the Red Cross set Dalton's quota at \$30,000 and the town "went over the top" for \$44,887.12!

The Y. M. C. A. asked by the United States to take over the canteen service of the Army and Navy and establish "Huts" called for funds to aid them in this tremendous undertaking and Dalton sent them \$33,788. The K. of C. asked for funds for their service to our army and navy and \$1,273 was raised here. There is no record available of Dalton's response to the Salvation Army Drive but we do know that it, too, was a generous answer.

Later on the above organizations along with the Jewish Welfare Board, the War Camp Community Service and the American Library Association called for funds under the title of the United War Work Campaign. Sectarian though some of these organizations were they served all our soldiers, sailors and marines impartially, regardless of creed. It was a coincidence that they should call for funds on November 11, 1918, the date of the signing of the Armistice, but Dalton, though the war was over, recognized that much remained to be done before the troops were home again and raised \$25,574 to aid in this work.

During the war, there were two troops of Boy Scouts in town. The scouts helped in innumerable ways such as keeping on the lookout for concealed wireless antennae; putting up posters for the various campaigns for funds and cultivating war gardens.

In many other ways, the town played its part during the war. There were war gardens everywhere, most of them worked by school children and there were canning clubs. There were "coal-less" Mondays and "gas-less" Sundays. The schools were closed indefinitely. All the manufacturing plants were closed Monday except the Crane Mills which were making the paper for the Liberty Bonds and the currency. Sixty-eight men enlisted in the Home Guards and drilled faithfully each week.

On July 4, 1919 Dalton welcomed home its soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses and War Workers with a celebration characteristic of the town. It was a celebration that gave "public expression to the joy felt at the safe return of friends and townsmen, who in the hour of the country's peril responded to her call" and at the same time paid tribute "of love and respect to the memory of those who gave their lives that the world might be saved from oppression."

The Spirit of Dalton, intangible, indefinable but nevertheless magnificent, was never better exemplified than by its record in the World War.



BENJAMIN F. SULLIVAN POST, No. 155, AMERICAN LEGION

BY FRANKLIN L. COUCH
Post Historian

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community,

set at \$4,000. The local committee volunteered to raise \$25,000 and the townspeople actually contributed the sum of \$45,158 or \$12.90 per inhabitant. A second call for funds by the Red Cross set Dalton's quota at \$30,000 and the town "went over the top" for \$44,887.12!

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state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

At the instigation of Mr. Winthrop M. Crane a meeting of all veterans of the World War was called in the Town Hall, February 6, 1920. The objectives of the American Legion were described and it was unanimously voted to form a post in Dalton and to name it after Benjamin F. Sullivan, a Dalton boy who made the supreme sacrifice.

Dr. Michael Shea was elected the first Commander. Twenty members were enrolled and quarters were secured in the Union Block.

In 1921, Thomas Amriding succeeded Dr. Shea as Commander. A Legion baseball team was organized and had a fairly successful season. Commander Amriding left town and Vice Commander Fred Armstrong guided the post for the remainder of the year.

Commander Armstrong was re-elected the next year. Historian Franklin L. Couch wrote "Dalton and the World War", which was published by the post. It contained a complete record of the service of all the men who served from Dalton and also a record of other war time activities and organizations.

Franklin L. Couch was elected Commander in 1923. This year the Town of Dalton voted in Town Meeting to pay the rent for room used as Post Headquarters.

Commander Couch was re-elected in 1924. The Community House granted the Legion use of a room in that building. This room is also used by various other organizations through the generosity of the Legion and the Community House. The American Legion Cup was first awarded this year to the graduating class of Dalton High School. The post purchased and the Boy Scouts delivered 1,000 copies of the proper display of the American Flag.

Marshall Stowell was elected Commander in 1925. The post was cited for an increase in membership.

In 1926, Commander Stowell was re-elected. This year was chiefly marked by an unsuccessful attempt to give Dalton a Fire Department. The post offered to organize such a department trained in up-to-date methods of fighting fire. The offer, however, was rejected.

Major George W. Krapf was elected Commander in 1927. Again the post's offer of a fire department was refused.

In 1928 and 1929, Edward J. Norman served as Commander. An airport was constructed on Flintstone Farm with a 50 foot circle to mark the landing field. The name Dalton, in huge letters was placed on the roof of the old Spark Coil Building. The post received two citations, one from the Guggenheim Fund for Aeronautics and one from National Headquarters for civic improvement.

Harold A. Herrick succeeded Commander Norman the following year, 1930. This year marked the first appearance of the post in official Legion uniforms. A junior baseball team was organized with William Stearns as coach.

In 1931, Commander Herrick was re-elected. This year marked the largest membership of the post, 136 members being enrolled. The Junior baseball team became Berkshire County Champions this year.

George N. Stack served as Commander for 1932. A citation for Community Service was received from National Headquarters. The post adopted the Boy Scout Drum Corps and renamed it the American Legion Junior Drum Corps. The Junior baseball team had a successful season.

In 1933, Commander Stack was re-elected. The post again sponsored a Junior baseball team and equipped the Drum Corps with uniforms. The corps made a creditable showing in competitive drill through the summer months considering that this was the first year of competition.

Albert Jandro succeeded Commander Stack in 1934. The post outfitted the Drum Corps with new uniforms.

The post, each year on Memorial Day visits each cemetery and fires a salute to the dead and with the assistance of the Boy Scouts flags the graves of all veterans on that day as well as Armistice Day. Numerous acts of charity have been performed. Military funerals have been accorded all veterans and they have been buried with full military honors and grave markers placed on the graves. As outlined in the Preamble to the Constitution the Legions stand always ready to serve the community, state and nation.

PAST ORGANIZATIONS

1. Ancient Order of Hibernians, organized September 20, 1889
2. Ancient Order of United Workmen, Lodge No. 163
3. Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society, organized February 26, 1887
4. Fraternal Order of Eagles
5. Foresters of America, Wahconah Court No. 97, organized 1894, disbanded 1930
6. G. A. R. Hancock Post No. 187, organized 1886
7. Sons of Veterans
8. Woman's Relief Corps
9. Knights of Pythias, Dalton Lodge No. 105, organized July 2, 1894
10. Sons of Temperance, Vernon Division No. 79, organized 1866
11. Taconic Tribe of Redmen
12. United Order of the Golden Cross

PRESENT ORGANIZATIONS

1. Benjamin F. Sullivan Post No. 155, American Legion, organized 1920
2. Boy Scouts, organized 1921
3. Boys' Club, organized 1923
4. Campfire Girls, organized 1920
5. Columbia Council No. 411, Knights of Columbus, organized 1899
6. Dalton Grange No. 23, organized 1873
7. Daughters of Isabella, organized 1924
8. Berkshire Chapter No. 81, Order of Eastern Star, Constituted 1902
9. Flintstone Grange No. 353, organized 1916
10. F. C. & L.
11. Girl Scouts, organized 1926
12. Improvement Society of Dalton, Incorporated 1933
13. Legion Auxiliary
14. Rod and Gun Club
15. Saturday Evening Club
16. Twentieth Century Club
17. Unity Lodge of Masons
18. Wahconah Country Club
19. Community Recreation Association



HISTORY OF TROOP 4, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

That "great oaks from little acorns grow" is amply illustrated in the history of Dalton's Troop 4, Boy Scouts of America.

First registering in December, 1921 with fourteen boys and two leaders, Troop 4 has grown into the largest troop in the world with 170 boys and 23 leaders. The founder of the Troop, Rev. Ralph M. Timberlake, started the troop at the request of a few boys of the church. At that time there were two other troops in other Dalton Churches, Troop 2 at the Methodist Church and Troop 3 at St. Agnes'.

The first Scoutmaster of the troop was Marcus Jordan. He served in that capacity four months from December, 1921 to April of 1922. The first Troop Committee was made up of five members with Mr. Timberlake as Chairman. The other members were Messrs. Charles F. Sawyer, Winthrop M. Crane, Jr., Wallace Strong and Franklin L. Couch.

In April, 1922, when Mr. Jordan moved to Pittsfield, the Troop Committee appointed Mr. Couch as Scoutmaster and he has been the troop's leader from that date down to the present.

The story of the troop's growth and expansion from a church troop into a community troop; its adventures and achievements over the years and the many interesting sidelights that could be told would take pages to relate. We will try and consolidate some of the most interesting highlights as follows:—

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COMMUNITY AND DISASTER SERVICE AND GOOD TURNS—First relief organization into Becket in the flood of 1927, when Troop 4 scouts cooked for the homeless, administered First Aid, served as guards with the State Police, and acted as messengers, aiding the Red Cross in every way desired.

Four successful mobilizations for missing persons and other mobilizations for forest fires.

Town hydrants kept free of snow each winter.

Assisting Legion in decorating graves on Memorial Day and Armistice Day.

Marking of Dalton-Cheshire section of Appalachian Trail.

Care of furnaces, walks, etc. for shut-ins.

Raising of vegetables in troop garden for relief of needy.

Canvass of town for old clothes, furniture, etc. for relief of needy.

Furnishing of messengers, First Aid details, etc.

HONORS WON BY THE TROOP—Streamers for membership growth from Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Roosevelt.

Dean Progress Trophy Cup awarded by council for advancement (won three years and permanently).

The President's Cup for Indoor Championship in Scout Competitions (won three years and permanently).

Bronze Plaque awarded by Council for Outdoor Championship.

Five Year Veteran Award in 1926 and Ten Year in 1931.

ACTIVITIES—(outside of regular scout program) Dads' Auxiliary, Mothers' Auxiliary, Bugle and Drum Corps, Glee Club, Indian Group, Sea Scouts, Cubs and the "Troop Four Scouter".

CAMPING—Troop Four, either as a troop or by particular groups of its members has camped in the White Mountains, the Green Mountains, the Adirondacks, the Berkshires and along the shores of Connecticut and Massachusetts and has covered a total of over six thousand miles on these trips. (Two of our scouts attended the International Jamboree of Scouts from all over the world in England in 1929.)

It is estimated that during these years of Troop 4's existence, over 700 boys have been in its ranks, seven hundred present and future citizens of the United States. This is Troop 4's contribution so far to its country and its community.



DALTON GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts—a troop of 40 girls—were first known in Dalton in 1916 under the captaincy of Miss Kate Bicknell. But these were years of strife; and after their leader, Miss Bicknell, was called to overseas service in the Y. M. C. A., the troop disbanded.

The spirit, never dead, arose once more in the years preceding 1926. Organization of a new troop of Dalton Girl Scouts was begun in this year—and completed—under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Benj. F. Sullivan American Legion Post. Early in the spring of 1927, with Mrs. F. L. Couch as captain, the spirit took form in a troop of 33 girls, and a growing troop it was; for by October of the same year, the members had leaped to over 100—a level which has been maintained, and which necessitated a division into three troops; the Silver Fox, the Laurel, and the Thistle. The Brownies and the Tweenies, offering scouting for the girls below scout age, appeared also in 1927.

A Girl Scout drum corps, organized by Anna I. Dunbar in January of 1930, comprises at present thirty-eight regular players, and has a complete membership of sixty girls.

HOW CAMP FIRE BEGAN IN DALTON

In the fall of 1919 a group of Dalton girls were looking for a chaperon for their good times and found one in Mrs. Luke Bicknell. Starting out just to have fun, with headquarters in Streeter's barn, the group soon began to wish for a more serious goal. The result was the organization of the Litahni Camp Fire with Mrs. Bicknell as guardian and Rev. Ralph M. Timberlake as sponsor, for it was necessary that the group be sponsored by some local organization and it chose to be sponsored by the church.

The first meeting under the charter from National Camp Fire was held on March 16, 1920. Twelve girls—Gladys Boakes, Mary Briggs, Edith Culver, Anna May Freehan, Elizabeth Haworth, Jeanette MacDonald, Josephine Marean, Elizabeth Pomeroy, Vera Sears, May Bell Smith, Jeanette Streeter, and Salome Warren,—became Camp Fire girls at this meeting. On May 25, Barbara Crane and Grace Butler joined the group at the same time that Anna, Vera and Salome attained the first rank of Woodgatherer. By September 16, when Ruth Parker celebrated her twelfth birthday by joining the Camp Fire, twelve girls had become Woodgatherers.

In the summer of 1921 eleven girls with their guardian and assistant guardian (Miss Alta Sears) went to Northfield where Miss Kempthorne, National Field Secretary, was giving a special Camp Fire Training Course for guardians and girls. Salome Warren was at once made camp bugler because of skill on the cornet, winning a National honor for her faithfulness in getting us up and sending us to bed at the proper times. All the girls had the banner given for best score on tent inspection at least once during their stay. Jeanette Streeter and Salome had also the very great privilege of receiving their Fire Maker's rank from Miss Kempthorne herself.

Later in the summer four girls and their guardians went to the newly established Camp Fire Camp on Plunkett's Reservoir in Hinsdale for a week. This first camping experience did a great deal to develop Litahni girls. For camp in those days was not highly organized. The girls planned their own menus and did their own cooking as well as all other camp duties. But they seemed to have just as much fun as the girls who go camping today and to be even more eager for a second experience.

The first time that the birthday of Camp Fire (March 17) was officially celebrated by groups everywhere by a campaign for new members Litahni increased its membership to the full quota of twenty. The six girls who were instrumental in securing and sponsoring the new members received national

birthday honors straight from National Headquarters and wore them proudly on their ceremonial gowns.

In October 1921, Naswakee Camp Fire was organized under the same guardianship. This group was composed of girls from the south part of the town and was sponsored by Dalton Grange No. 23, holding most of its meetings in the Grange hall. Miss Alta Sears soon assumed full guardianship of this group and did splendid work with it.

Four years after the first group was organized interest in Camp Fire began to show in plans for new groups. One by one groups were organized as leaders could be secured, until Dalton could boast groups enough to warrant a Guardian's Association of its own. Up to this time Dalton guardians had been considered members of the Pittsfield Association and Dalton girls could use the camp maintained by them for one week each season.

In the summer of 1922 a combined group of Litahni and Naswakee girls in camp at Hinsdale had a baptism of fire when a defective oil-stove exploded and burned the camp house with all its contents too quickly to permit any salvaging. Luckily no one was in the house at the moment of explosion. The season was finished at Bluebird Cottage, Richmond Pond,—a delightful place secured through the kindness of Miss Gertrude Watson,—where Camp Fire girls continued to camp each summer until the present Camp Witawentin was built.

SOME EARLY VALUATIONS OF PROPERTY

In 1833, there were twenty-two persons who paid tax on money at interest to the amount of \$20,400. The largest individual sum was that of John Chamberlin who paid on \$6000, and the smallest was \$130; all but four paid on sums between \$130 and \$900. There were 154 cows, the largest herd being nine, the next comprising six. That year there were 103 horses, 122 oxen, and 3687 sheep. A few years later there were over 4000 sheep.

There was another item of personal tax known as the Faculty Tax. This value varied from thirty to one hundred dollars which would mean a tax of 24 cents on thirty dollars at a rate of \$.008 on a dollar. In those days they expressed their rate as so many mills on a dollar, now we say dollars on a thousand.

Faculty was an old custom of taxation by which every man contributed in the support of the public burdens according to his ability, means, or resources. Ability meant property and resources meant revenues. It regarded not the feelings of the taxpayer but the money value of his taxable capacity. The faculty standard was objective and it did not follow that it was suitable. There were thirty-one persons who paid faculty tax. These were usually people who owned no property.

The value of the first Mr. Zenas Crane's paper mill was \$5000; his stock in trade, \$8000.

John Chamberlin's grist mill, \$1500.

Henry Marsh's store stock in trade, \$2000; bank stock, \$1500 and faculty, \$100. He also had 600 sheep.

Ashuelot Manufacturing Co. Factory, \$15,575; stock in trade \$1200.

David Carson's paper mill, \$8000; stock in trade \$10,000.

Franklin Weston's store, which is now No. 642 Main Street, \$500; stock in trade, \$800.

Granville Weston had a total valuation of \$5,900 and a chaise, \$100.

Mr. Jennings was the only minister in Dalton who owned his own home. His house stood on the east side of Jennings Avenue on East Main Street. It was a gambrel roof house, the same type as No. 371 on North Street. Mr. Jennings had two houses, barn and shed, about 200 acres of land, two horses, two colts, two oxen, three cows, six two year olds, two swine, and \$500 at interest giving a total valuation of \$3638.

DALTON

*Dalton, my native town, I love thee best,
Dearer to me thou art than all the rest.*

*I love thy meadows green and sparkling brooks,
Thy charming vales and hills and pretty nooks.*

*I love thy pleasant streets and dwellings fair;
Thy many cool retreats and balmy air.*

*I love thy pleasant groves, where all day long
The little warblers pour their notes of song.*

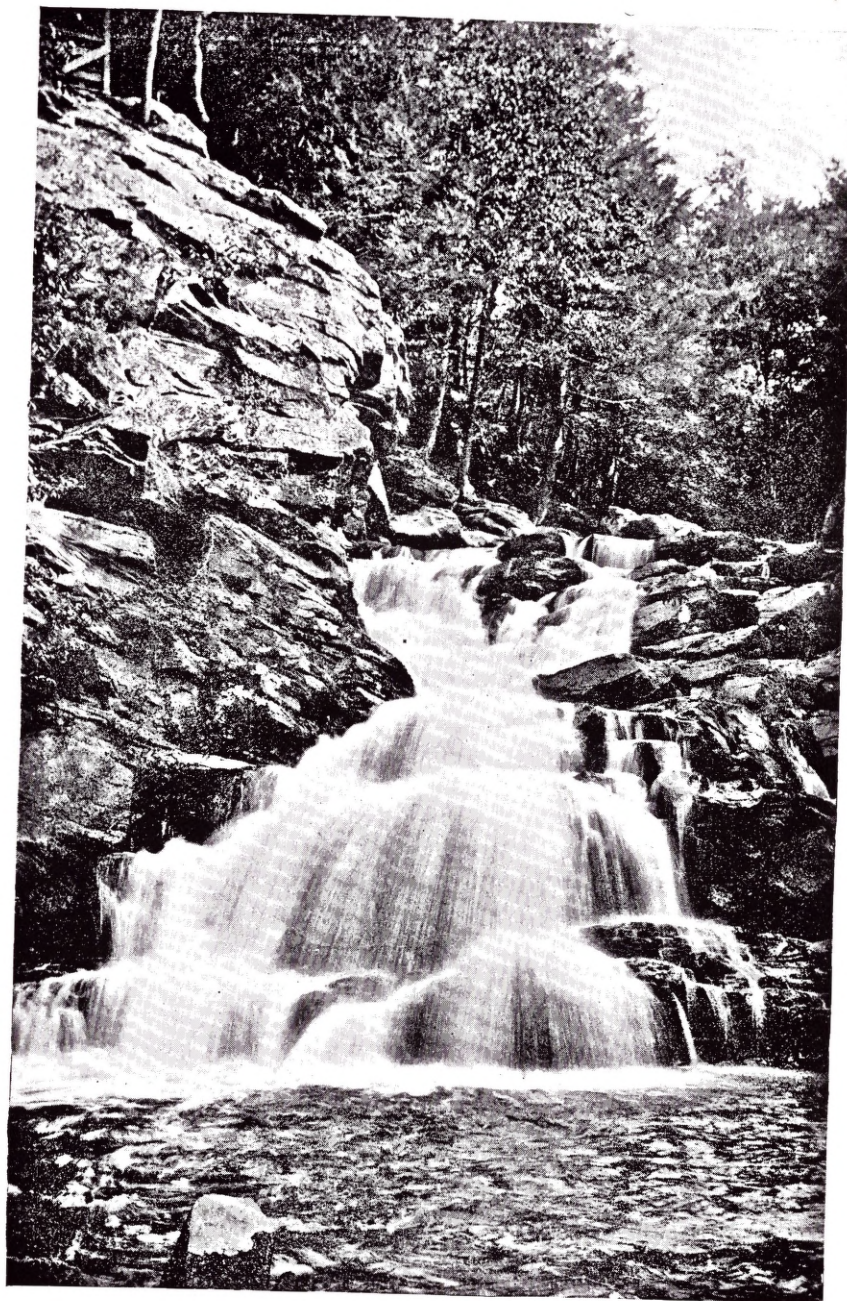
*I love thy banks of ferns, which thriftily grow:
They meet our welcome sight where'er we go.*

*I love thy sweet wild flowers of silent speech,
Yet they to us each day a lesson teach.*

*I love thy cooling springs, so clear and bright,
Which nature kindly gave for man's delight.*

*And last, I love the spot where rest the dead,
Where I some time shall lay my weary head.*

Chloe Woodworth.



WAHCONAH FALLS

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I have read of beautiful cascades,
 I have heard of mountains and caves,
 I have thought of the grand old oceans,
 With their wonderful tidal waves,
 And have read with pleasure o'er and o'er
 Of the beautiful scenes on a foreign shore.

But I know of a place full as charming,
 To those who have seen none more grand,
 Right here mid the blue hills of Berkshire,
 As any, perhaps, in our land—
 'Tis the Falls of Wahconah, O, rapturous sight,
 On which I have gazed with wond'rous delight.

They lie 'twixt the hills so secluded,
 Surrounded by forest and glen,
 Like a beautiful flower in the woodland,
 Away from the gaze of men,
 That a traveller passing the road along,
 Hears not a sound of its ceaseless song.

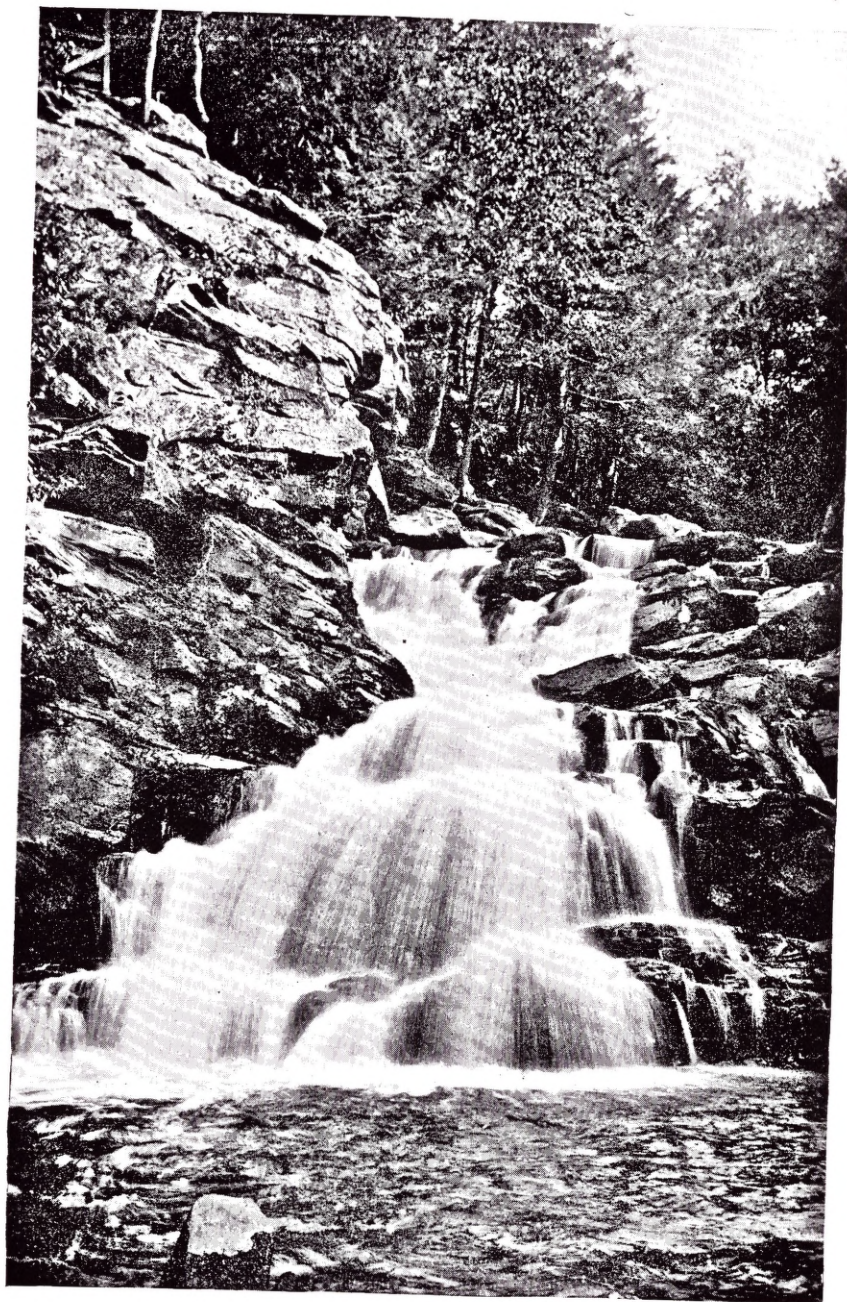
And O, it is sweet and refreshing,
 To turn from the dusty street,
 Into the winding pathway,
 With cool grass 'neath our feet,
 While the brow is fanned by the gentle breeze,
 That lightly plays 'mid the stately trees.

There's an open space 'ere we reach the brink,
 Where the sunlight again appears,
 But 'ere we emerge from the shady slope,
 A strange sound greets our ears,
 And the pulses thrill with a new delight,
 As the glistening waters meet our sight.

'Tis said that an Indian maiden,
 Whose love was wooed and won,
 Against her father's wishes,
 By a hostile chieftain's son,
 Had her fortune told in this rushing tide,
 That hurries adown the mountain side.

So they called the Falls Wahconah,
 By the Indian maiden's name,
 And I love their picturesque beauty
 Though they never reach to fame,
 For they lift the soul from the common clod,
 To a broader sense of Nature's God.

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